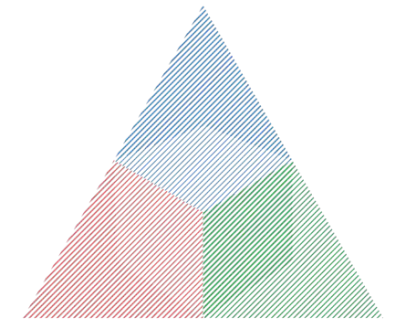


# Color vision: from pixels to objects

Karl R. Gegenfurtner

[gegenfurtner@uni-giessen.de](mailto:gegenfurtner@uni-giessen.de)

Abteilung Allgemeine Psychologie  
Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen



Cardinal Mechanisms of Perception

# Origins of color vision



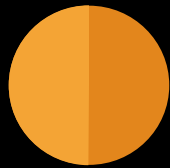
Hermann von Helmholtz  
1821 - 1894



James Clerk Maxwell  
1831 - 1879

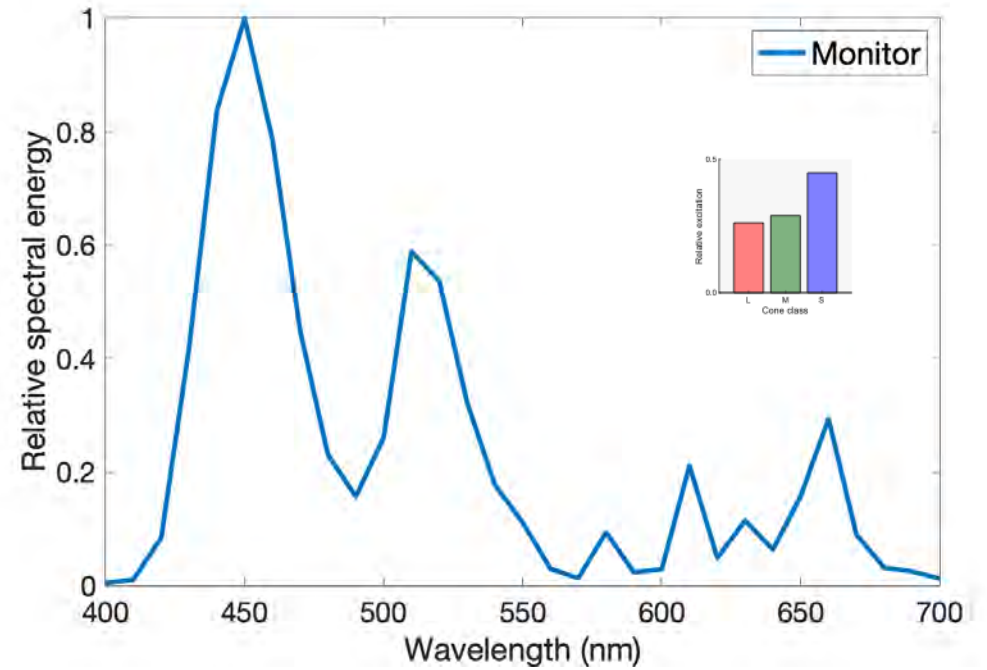


Thomas Young  
1773 - 1829





***Das Mädchen mit dem Perlenohrgehänge***  
(niederländisch: *Meisje met de parel*)  
Jan Vermeer (1632-1675).



**Mh** Mauritshuis

Mauritshuis  
Den Haag, Netherlands



Leinwand (60x80cm): Ja...  
amazon.de



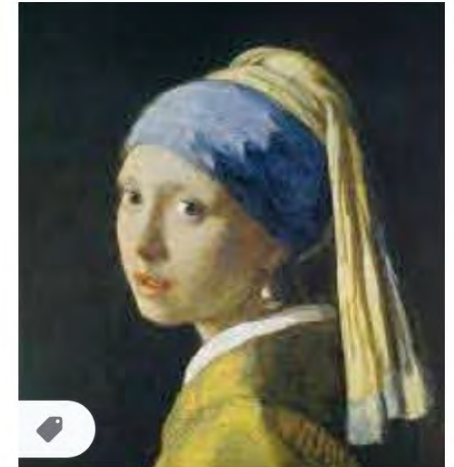
Das Mädchen mit dem Perlen...  
de.wikipedia.org



Jan Vermeer van Delft: Bild "...  
arsmundi.de · **In stock**



dem Perlenohrring Poste...  
posterlounge.de · **In stock**



dem Perlenohrring ...  
mondialart.eu · **In stock**



EUROGRAPHICS Puzzl...  
puzzle.de



Holland.com  
holland.com



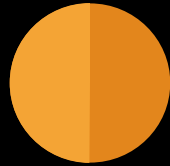
Das Mädchen mit dem Per...  
ebay.de · **In stock**

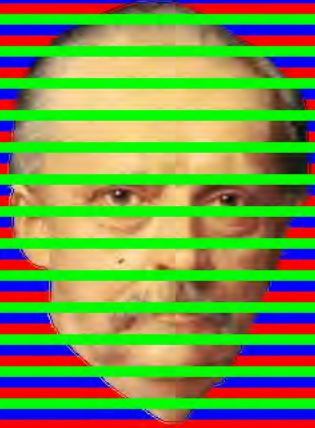


Johannes vermeer ...  
pinterest.de



Bild - Druck AUF LEINW...  
amazon.de









WHY COLOR?

**WHAT IS COLOR GOOD FOR?**

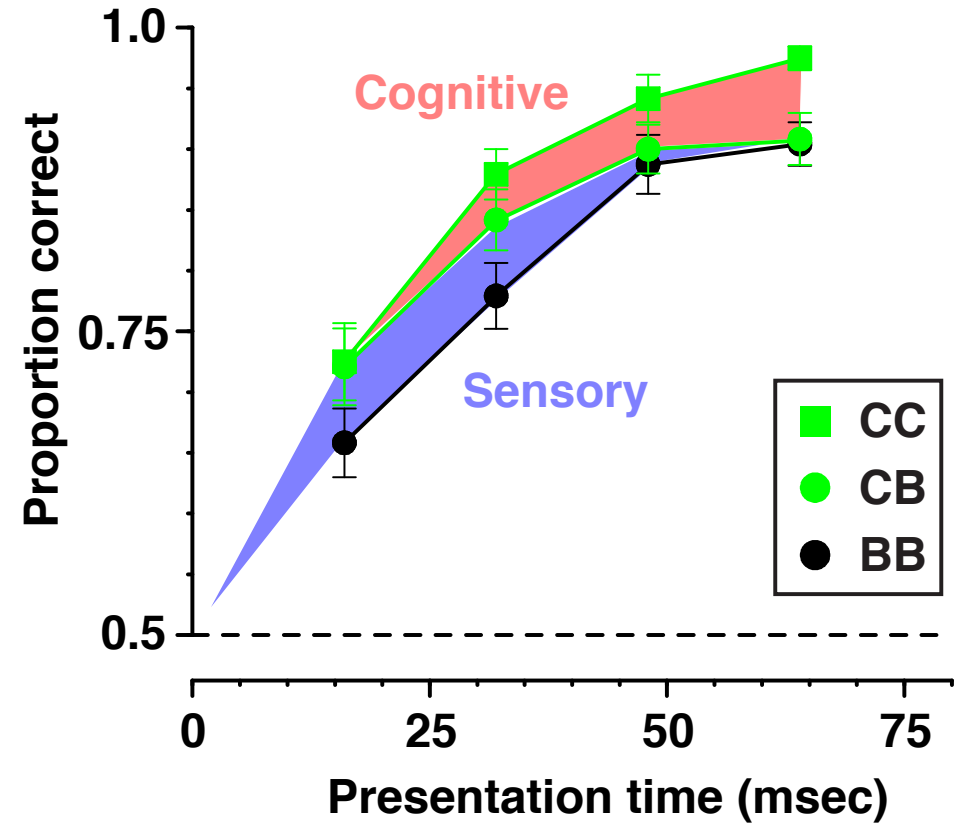
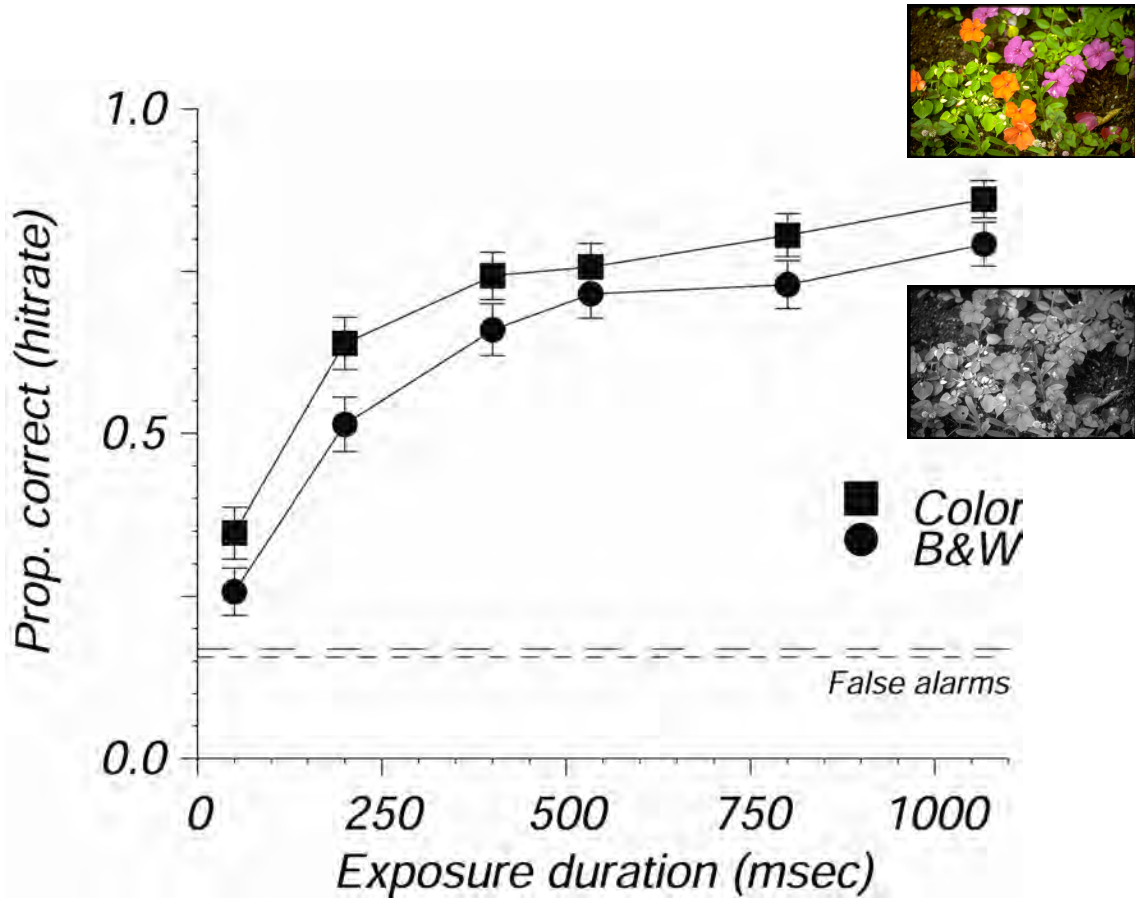
IT'S ALL ABOUT HUE

COLOR & OBJECTS: CHROMATIC EDGES

COLOR & OBJECTS: COLOR CONSTANCY



# Color helps to see things quicker and to remember them better



WHY COLOR?

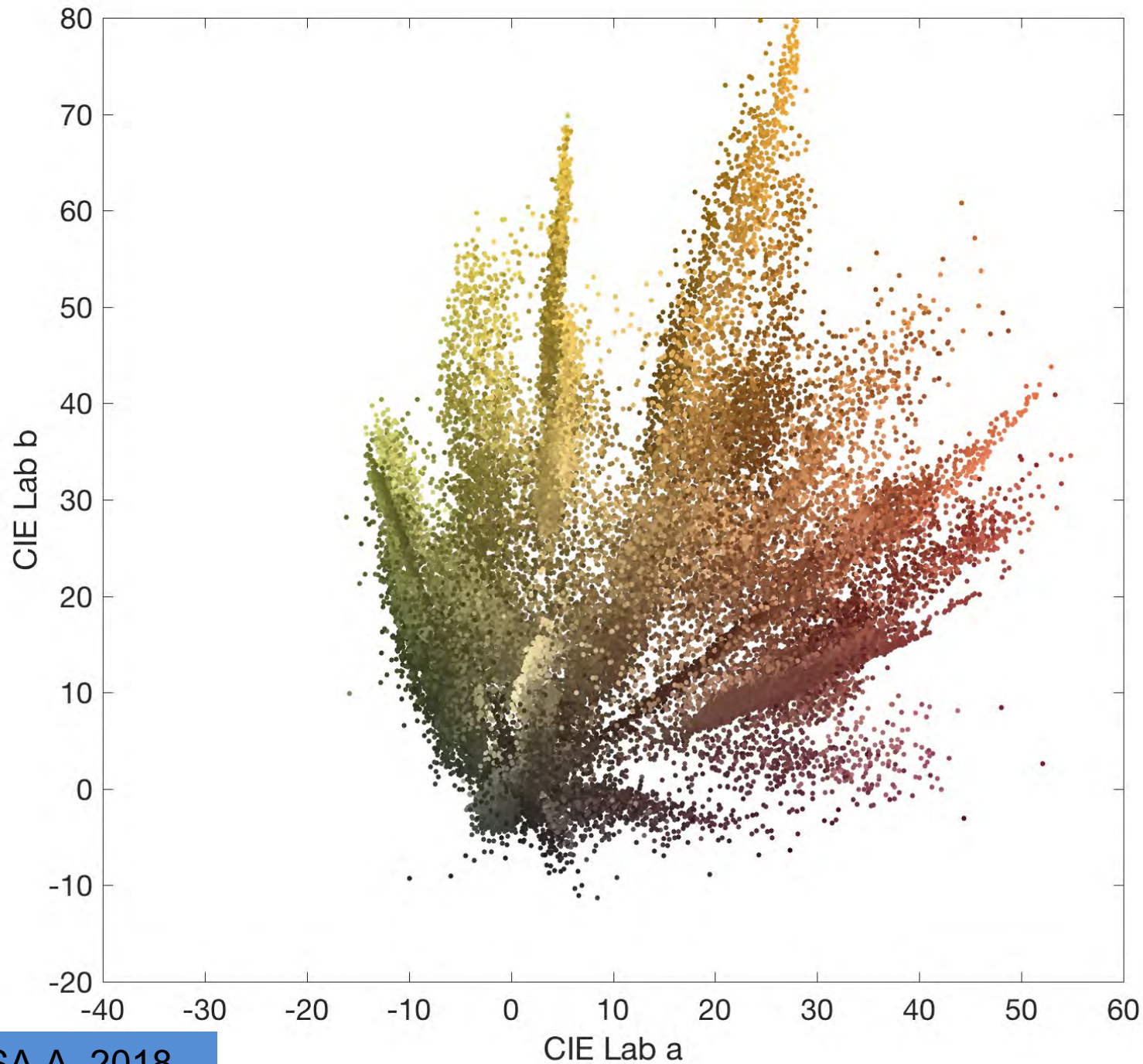
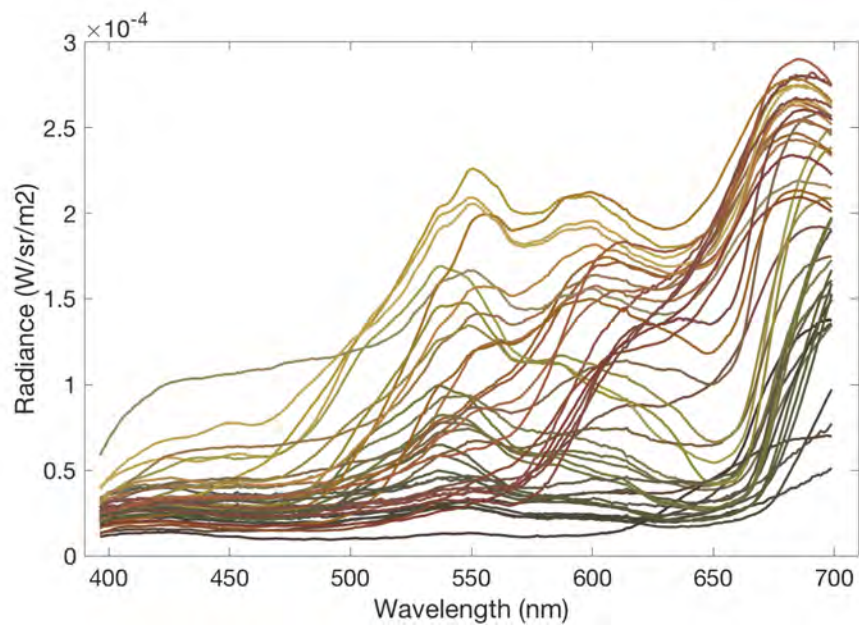
WHAT IS COLOR GOOD FOR?

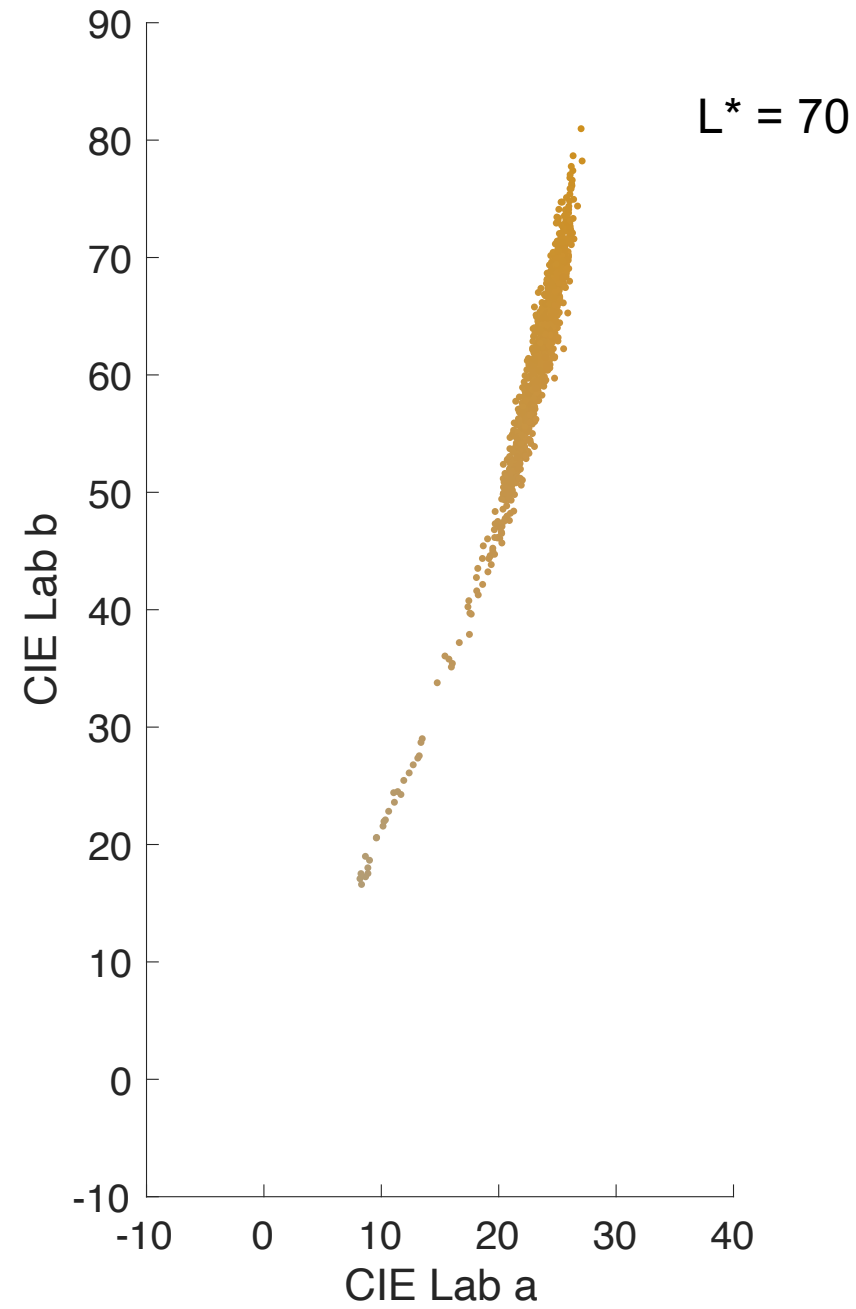
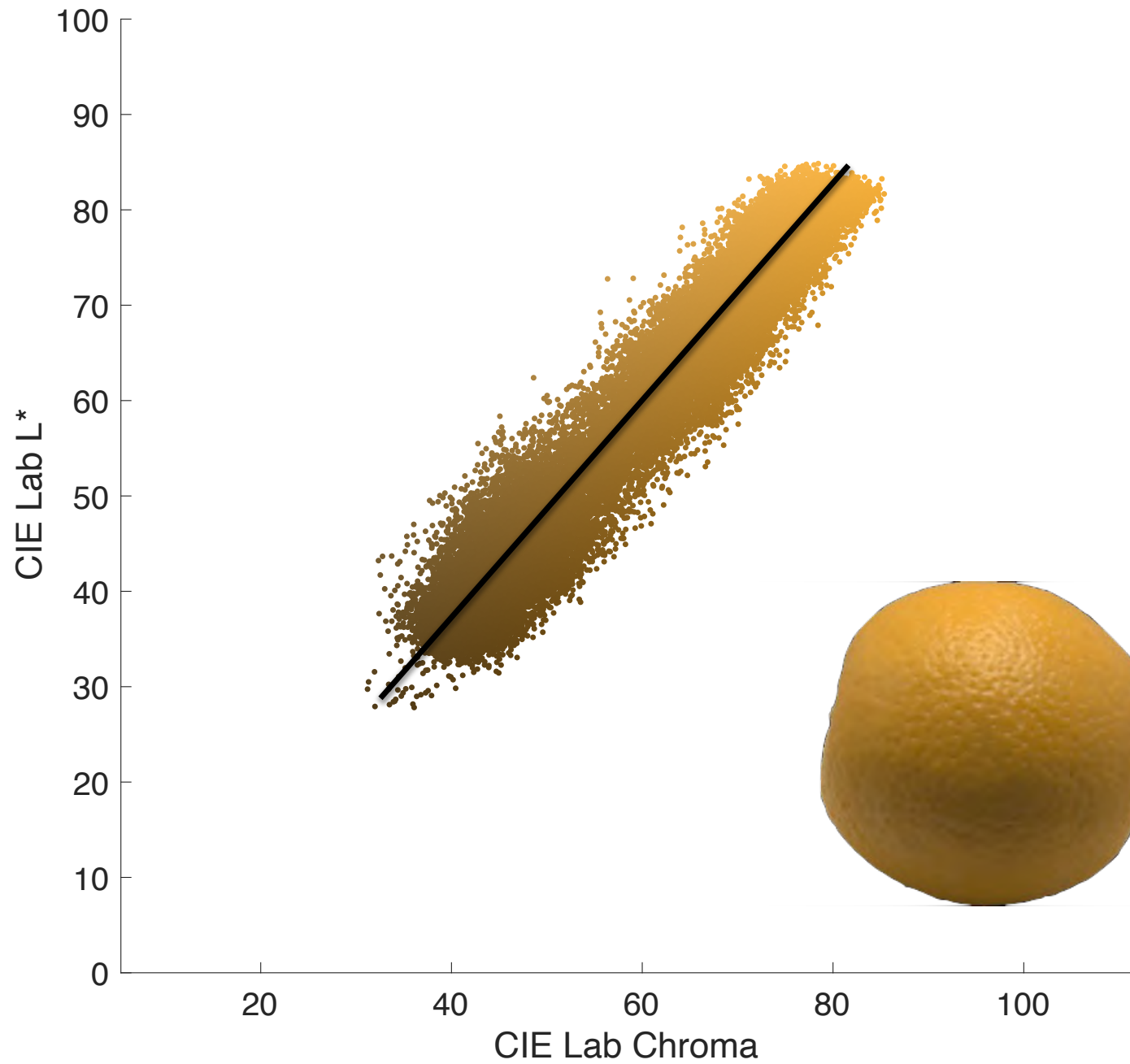
**IT'S ALL ABOUT HUE**

COLOR & OBJECTS: CHROMATIC EDGES

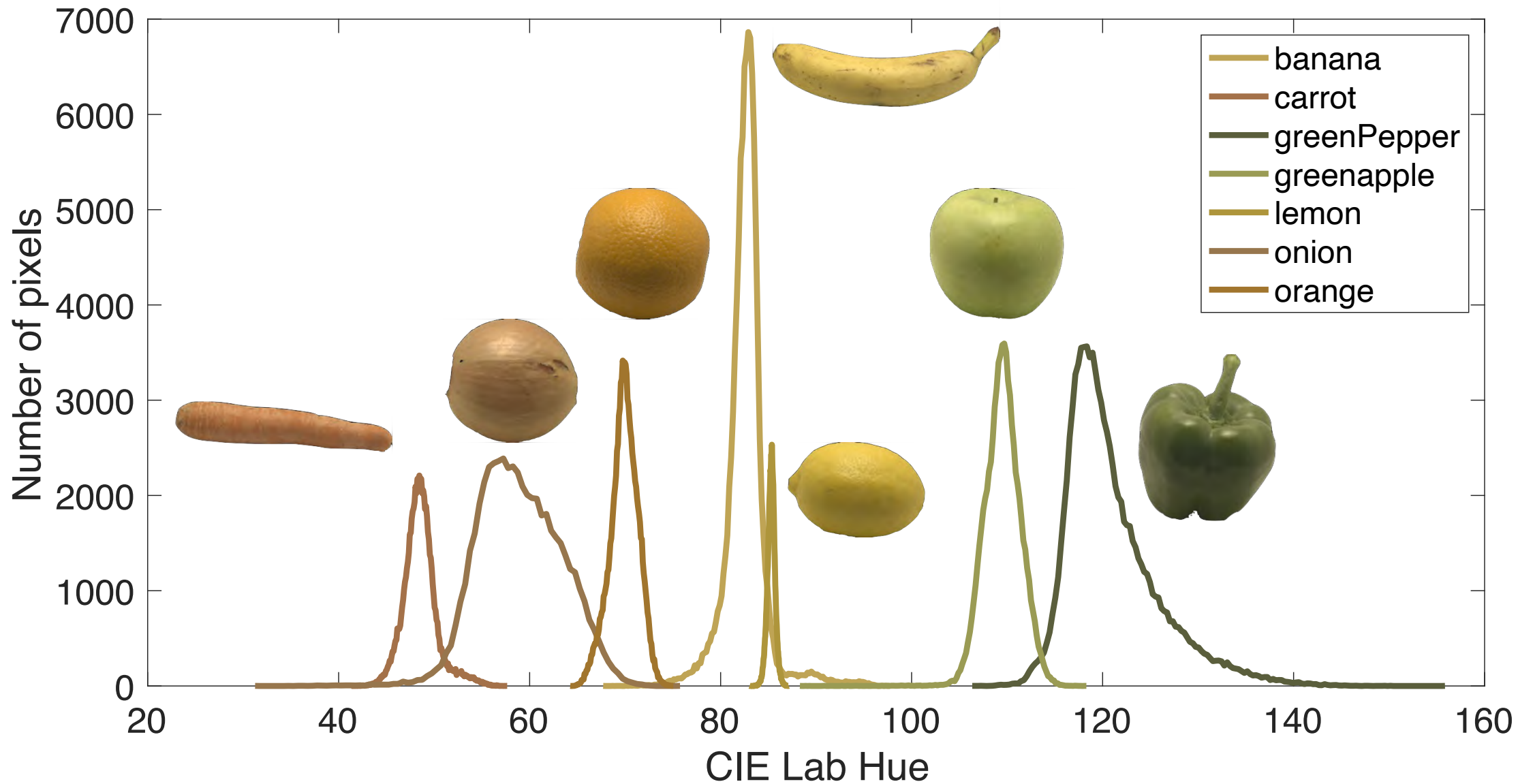
COLOR & OBJECTS: COLOR CONSTANCY

WHAT'S NEXT?





# Hue distributions



# Color Discrimination and Adaptation

JOHN KRAUSKOPF,\* KARL GEGENFURTNER\*

Received 22 April 1991; in revised form 16 January 1992

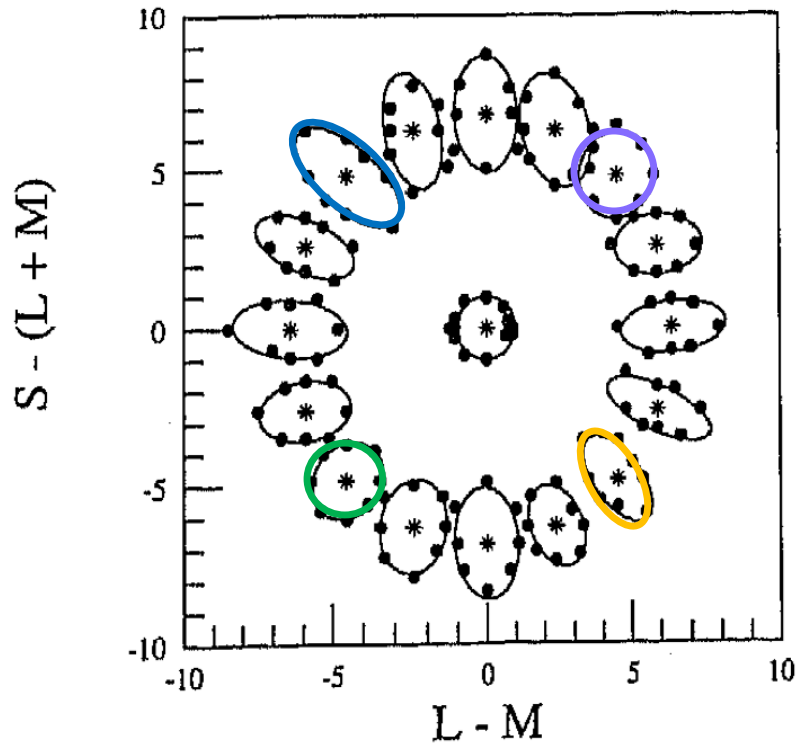


FIGURE 14. Discrimination ellipses for test vectors equally spaced in 16 directions around the white point. The adaptation point was white.

## PROCEEDINGS B

rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org

Research



## Superior discrimination for hue than for saturation and an explanation in terms of correlated neural noise

M. V. Danilova<sup>1,2</sup> and J. D. Mollon<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Visual Physiology, I. P. Pavlov Institute of Physiology, Mos., Moscow, U.S.S.R.; <sup>2</sup>St. Petersburg 190024

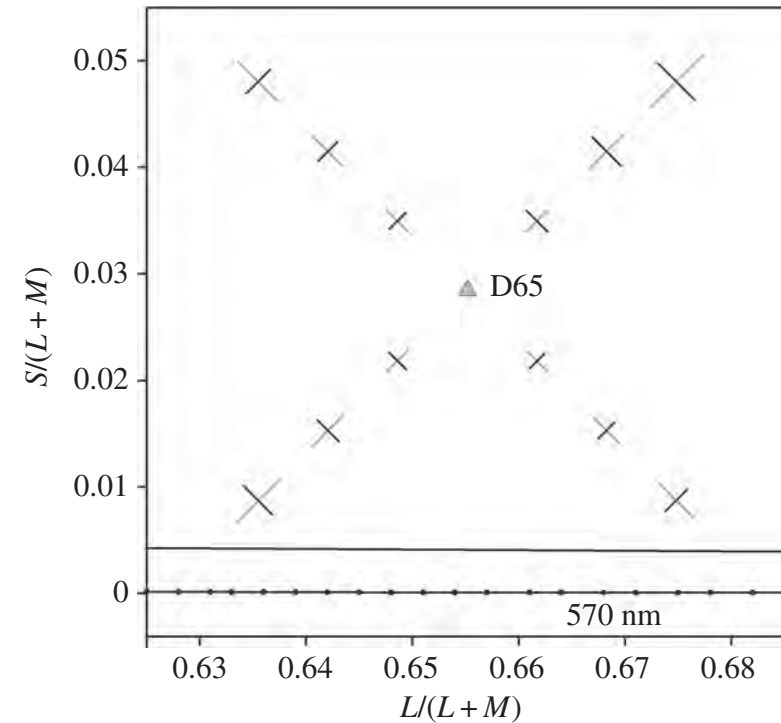
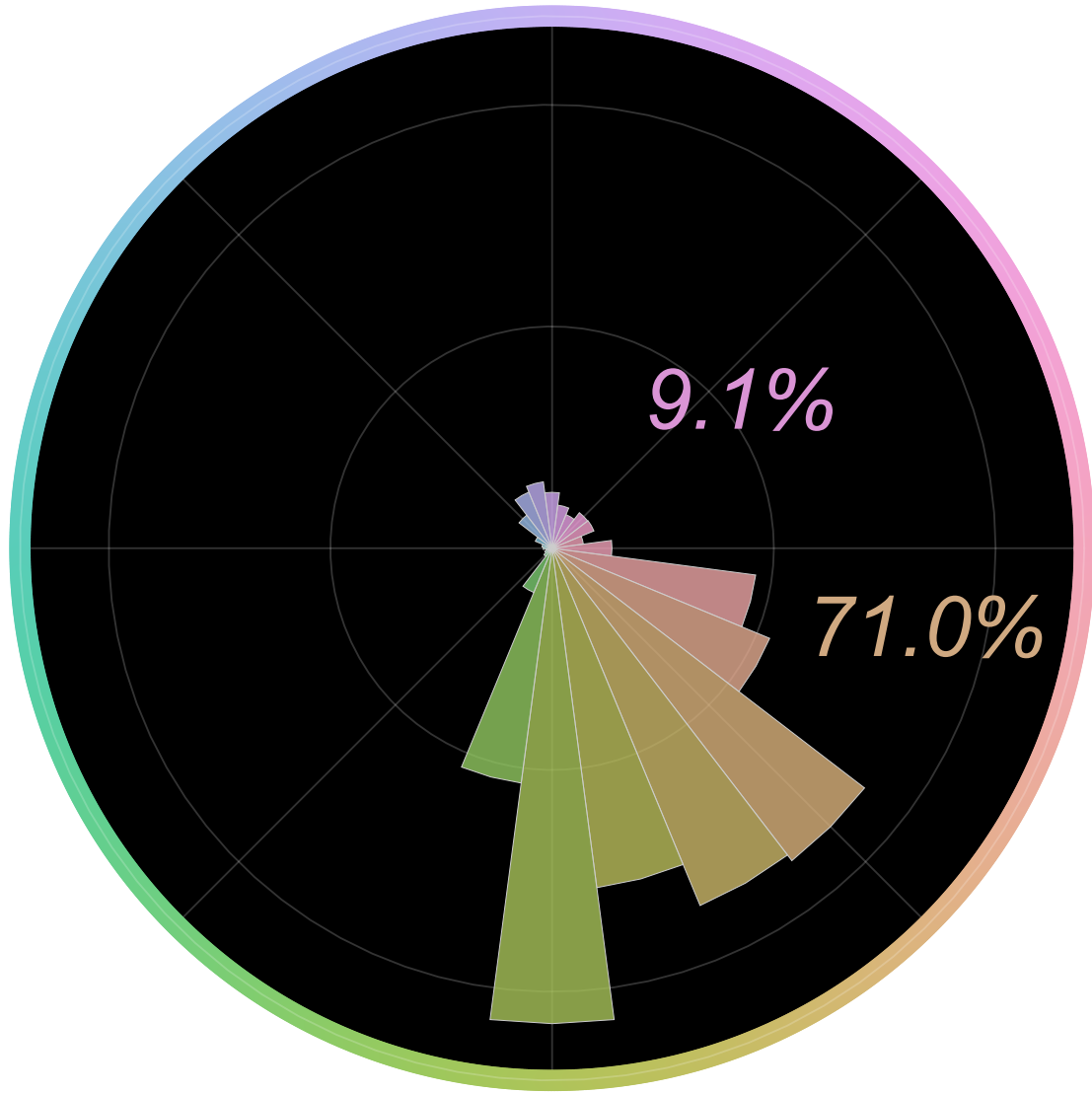


Figure 3. Average results for five observers, plotted in the MacLeod-Boynton diagram. The dashes directly show the separation of targets and distractors at threshold. D65 indicates the chromaticity of the neutral adapting field. The dotted line indicates part of the spectrum locus.



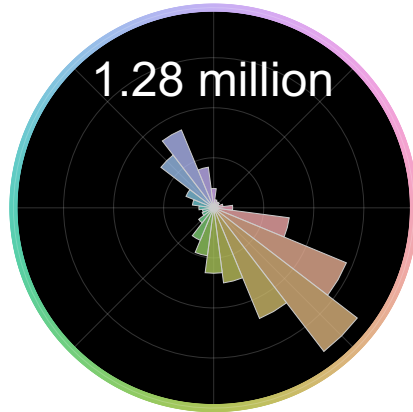
# Hue histogram - 6,476 natural objects' reflectances



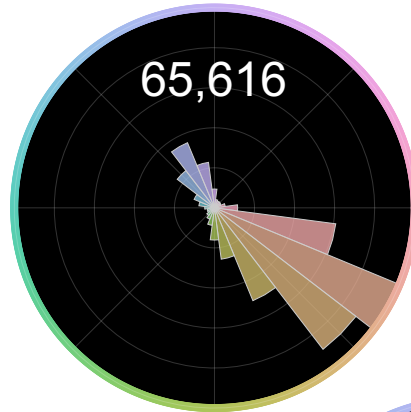
■ Sampled from 7 databases  
(Barnard, Brown, Cambridge, Fred,  
Krinov, Matsumoto and Morimoto)

■ Object categories  
bark, flowers, fruits, grass, human  
skin and hair, leaves, lichen, pelage,  
plants, rocks, stone, snow, soil, tree  
logs, vegetable, vegetation etc..

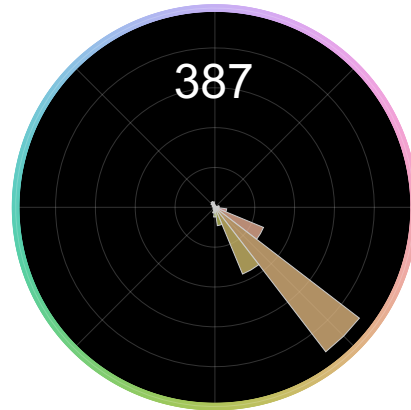
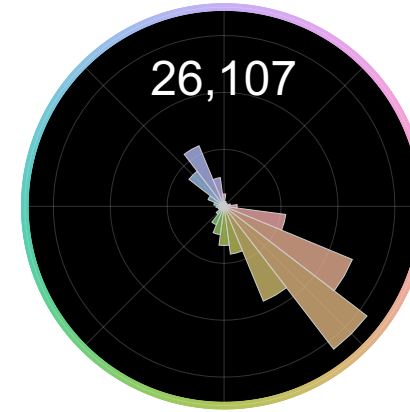
***ImageNet***



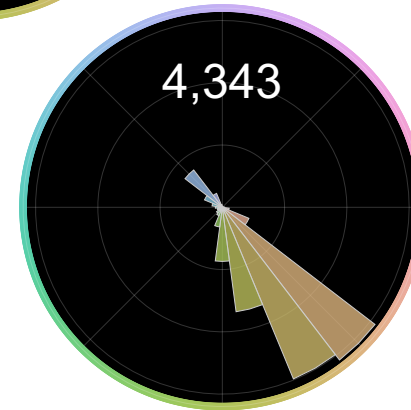
***COCO***



***THINGS***



***Hyperspectral  
images***



***Calibrated  
RGB images***

Takuma Morimoto, Arash Akbarinia, Laysa Hedjar, Shuchen Guan, Matteo Toscani, and Karl Gegenfurtner:  
Spontaneous Emergence of Asymmetries in Chromatic Discrimination From Deep Neural Networks Trained on  
Real-World Colour Images. In preparation.

# Deep Neural Networks

## ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

Alex Krizhevsky  
University of Toronto  
kriz@cs.utoronto.ca

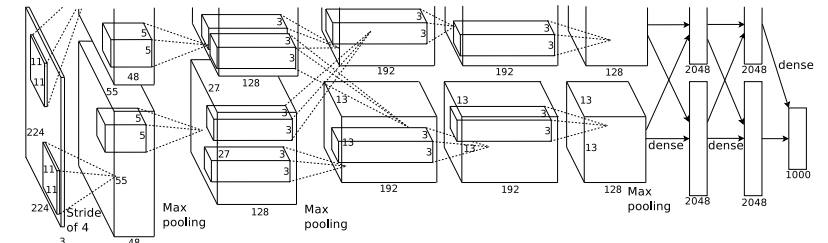
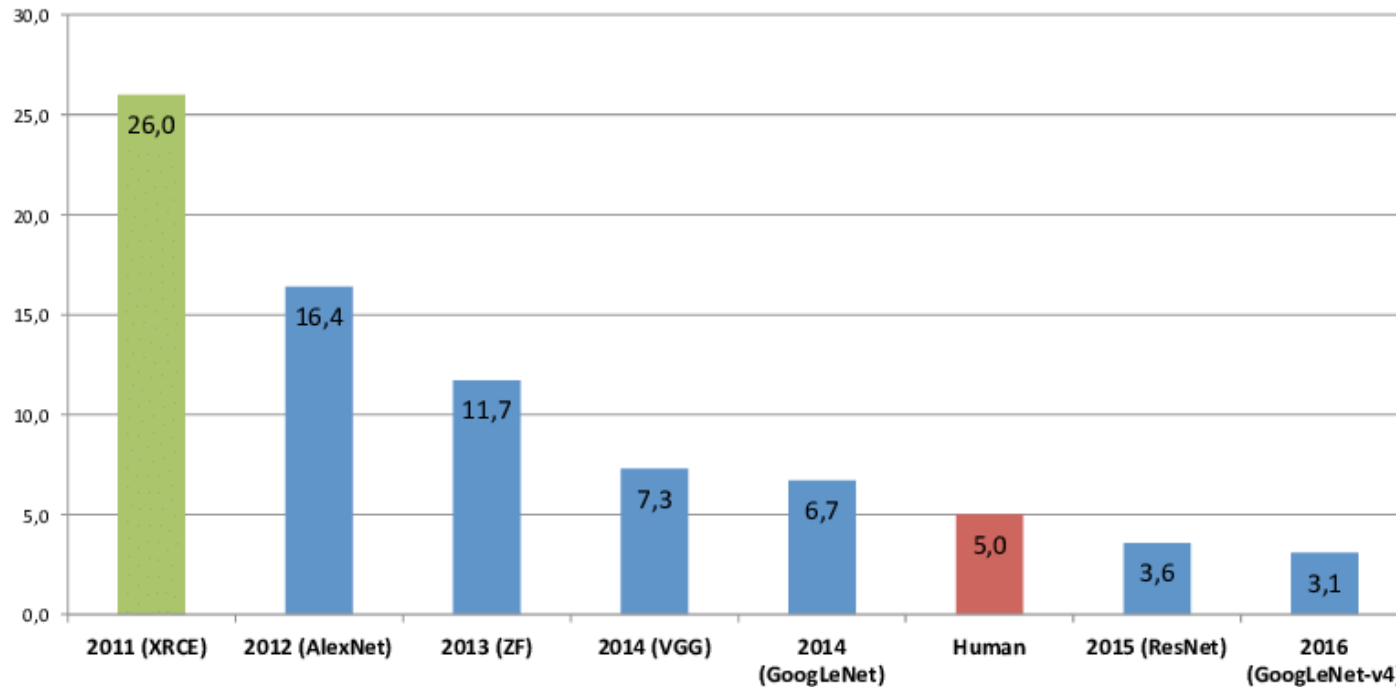
Ilya Sutskever  
University of Toronto  
ilya@cs.utoronto.ca

Geoffrey E. Hinton  
University of Toronto  
hinton@cs.utoronto.ca



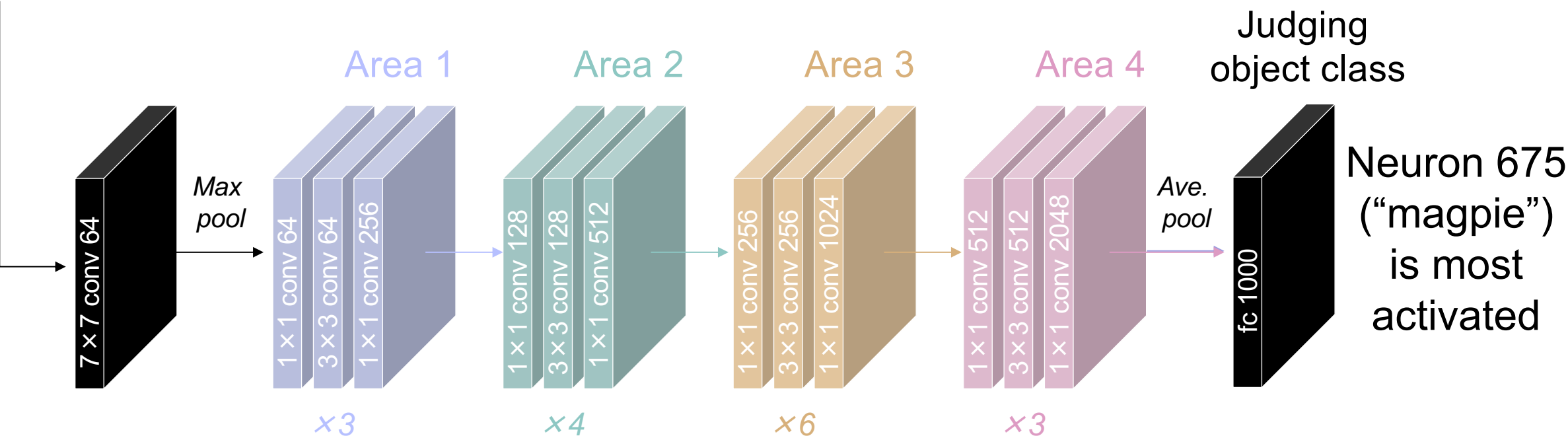
NIPS 2012

ImageNet Classification Error (Top 5)



# ResNet 50

$224 \times 224 \times 3$



# ResNet 50

## Training set

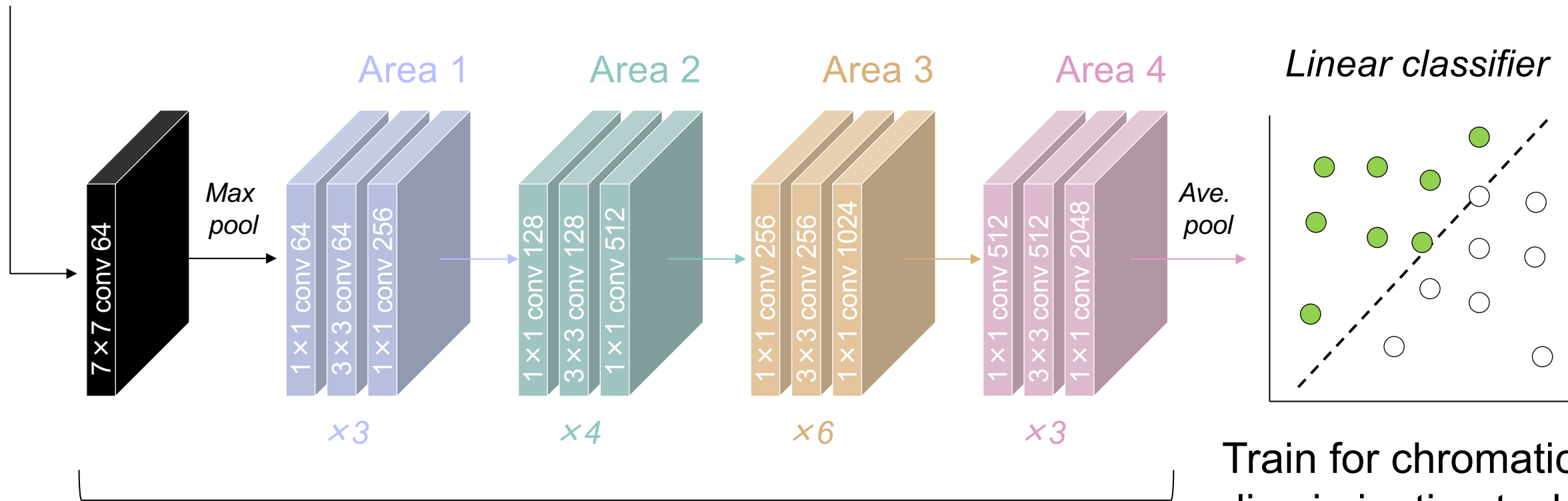
1,188 everyday objects  
× 10 random rotations



- Classifier was trained on “odd-one-out” task
- 1 epoch (1,188 shapes), 30 epochs in total

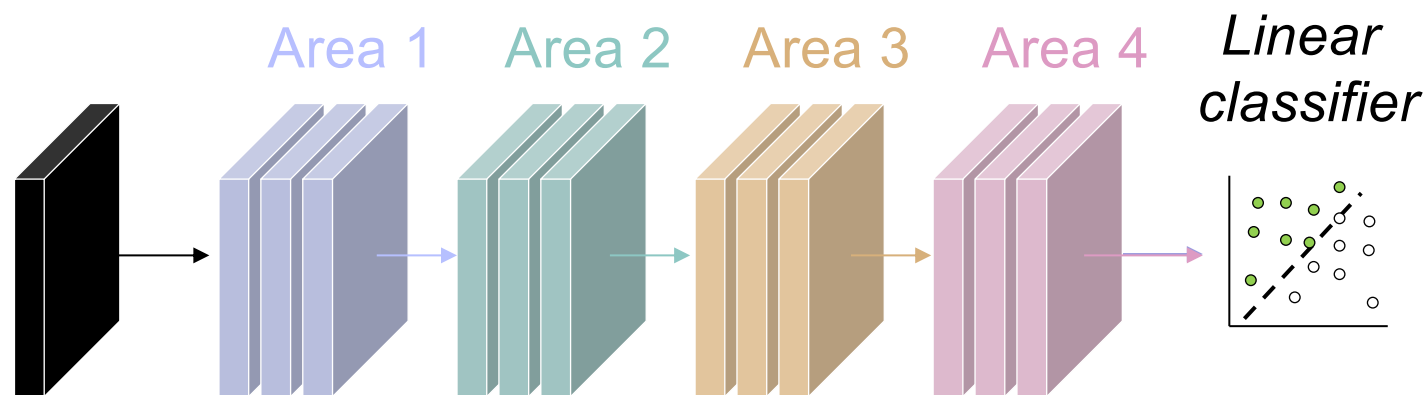
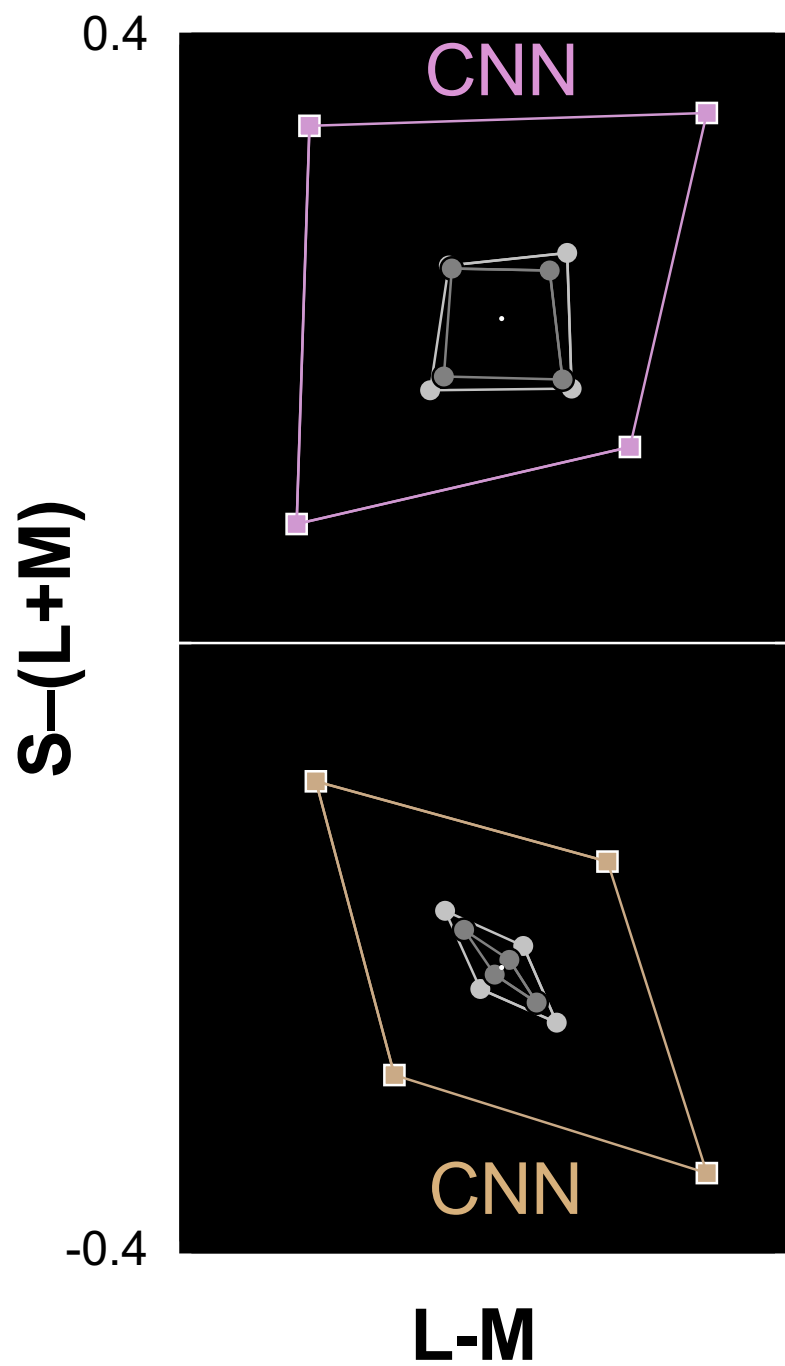


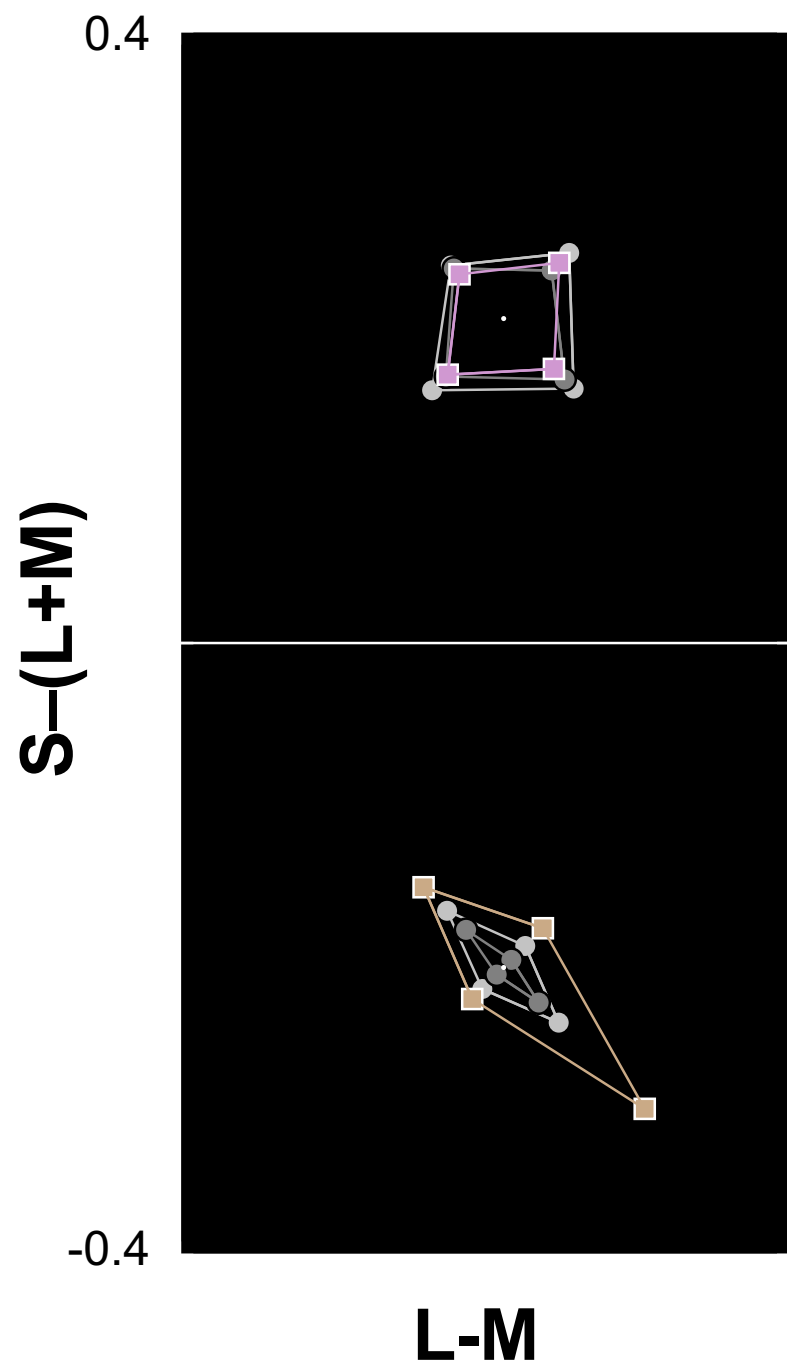
Randomly assigned color



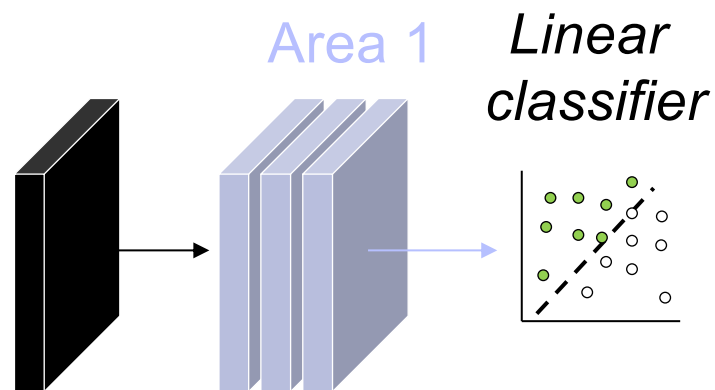
Freeze the learned weights (no training)

Train for chromatic discrimination task





***Natural scene statistics may shape fundamental color vision functions.***



**Human-like asymmetry emerges in shallower layer**

# Color, objects and image segmentation





WHY COLOR?

WHAT IS COLOR GOOD FOR?

IT'S ALL ABOUT HUE

**COLOR & OBJECTS: CHROMATIC EDGES**

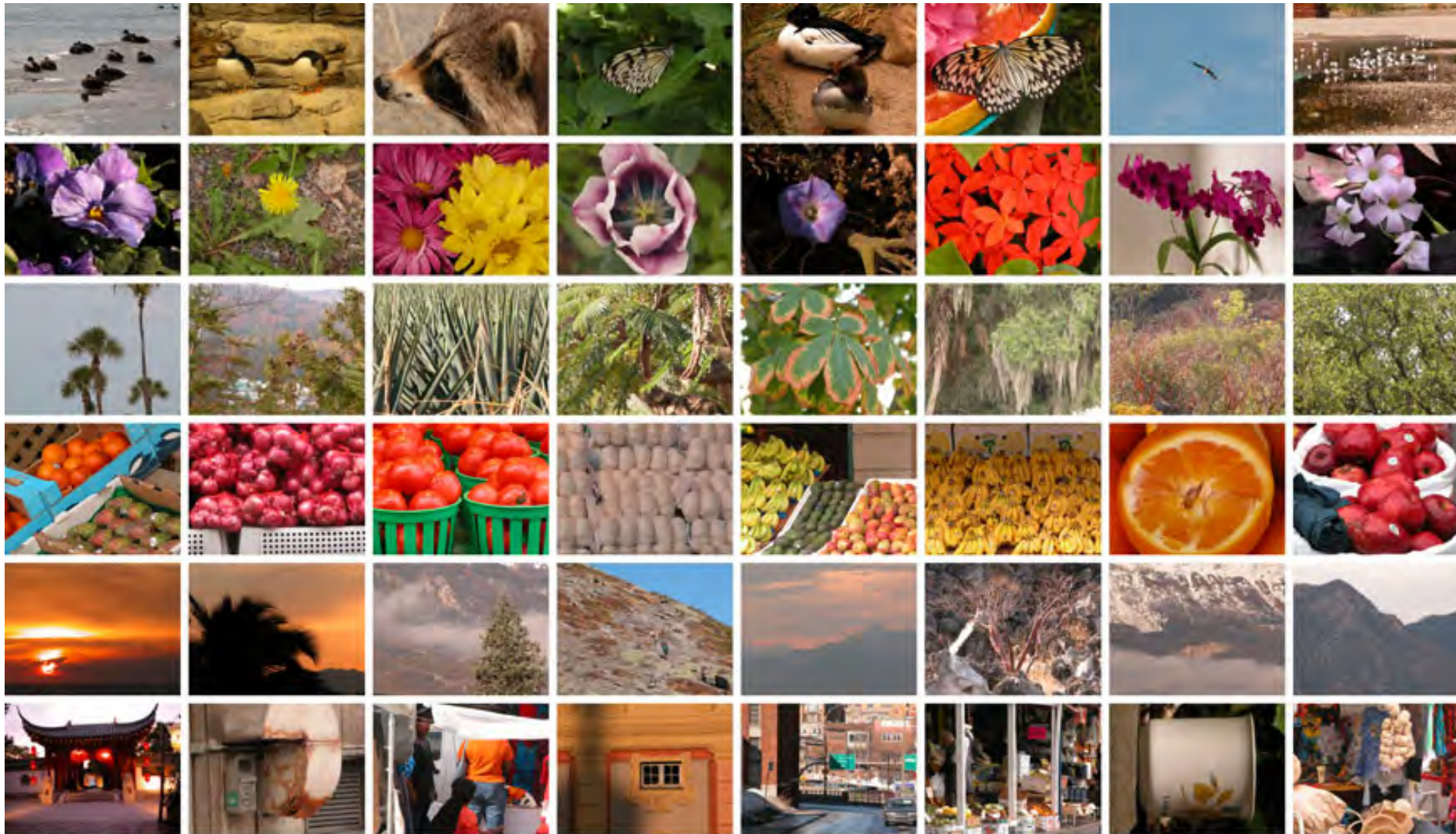
COLOR & OBJECTS: COLOR CONSTANCY

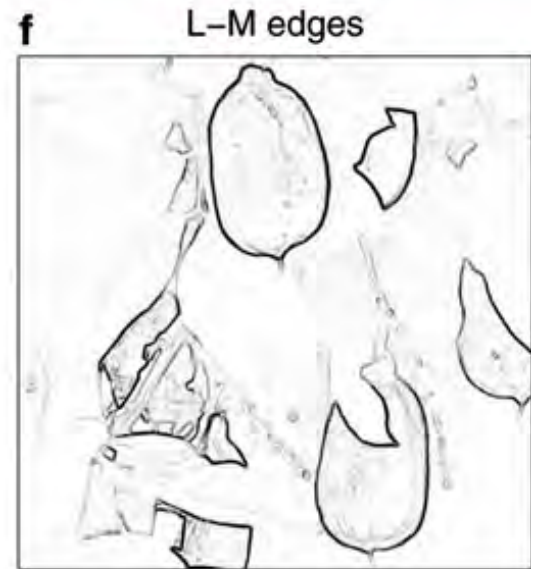
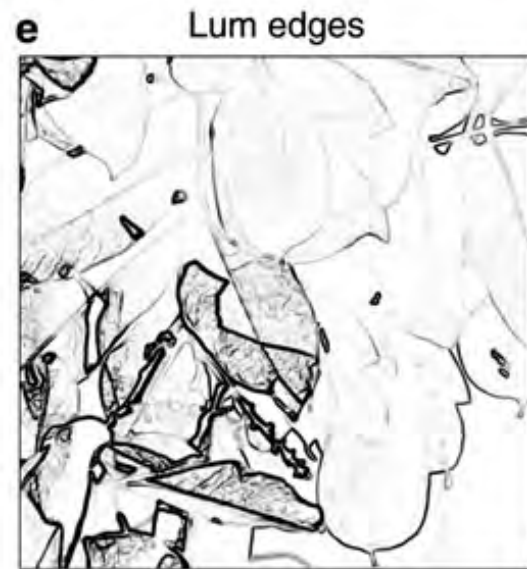
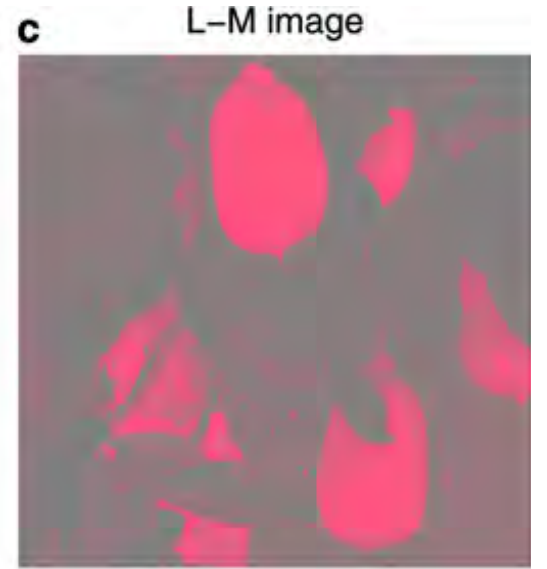
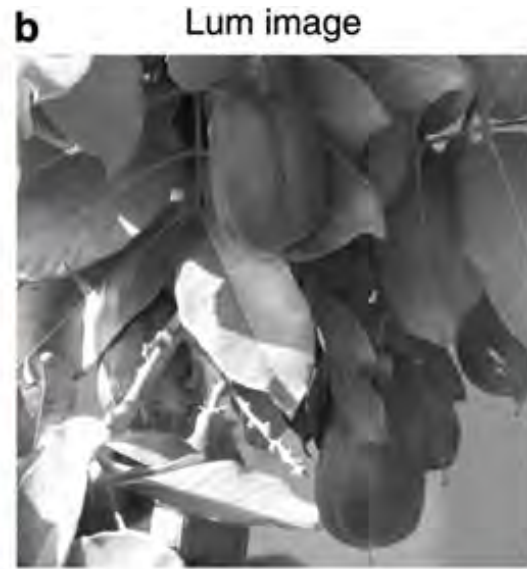
WHAT'S NEXT?

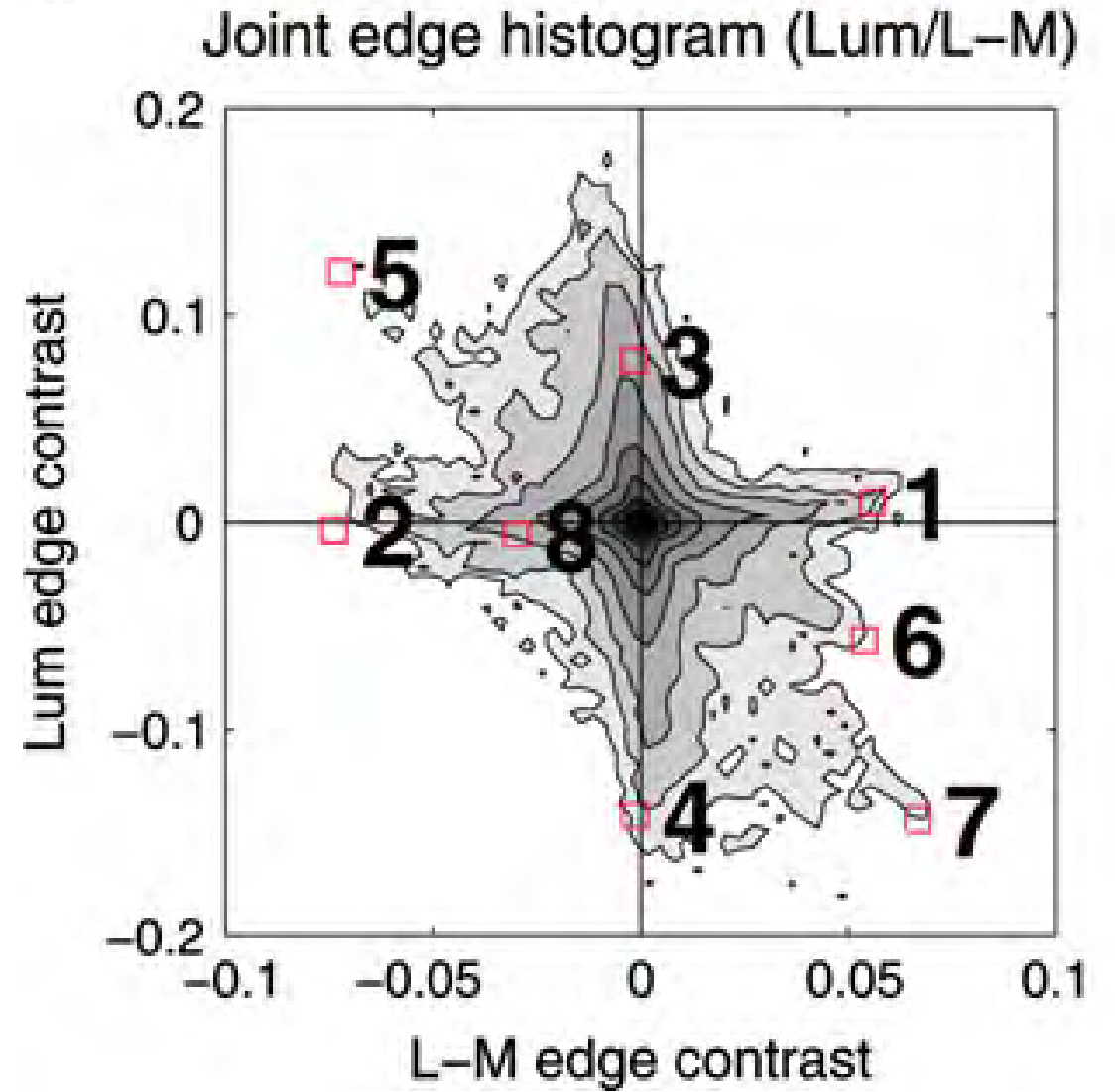
# Color in natural scenes



# Color in natural scenes

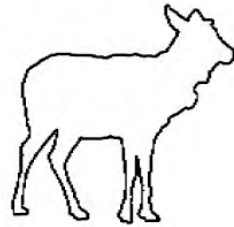




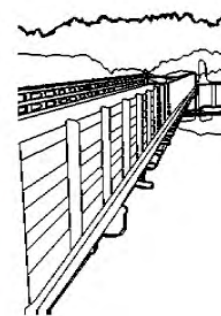
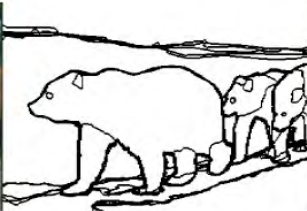


# Human labeled edges

ANID



BSD500



MGCCCD

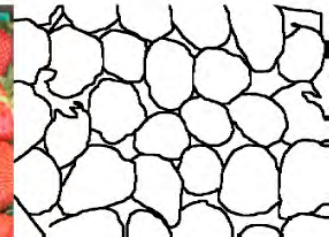


Image (Lum + L/M + S)



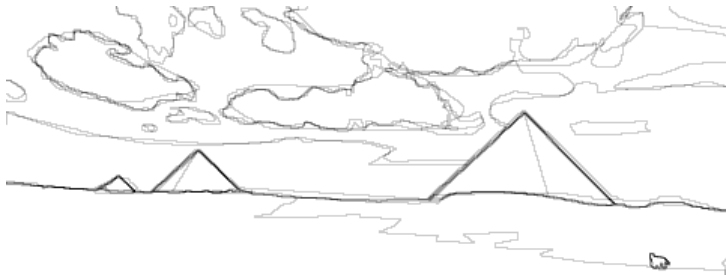
Achromatic (Lum)



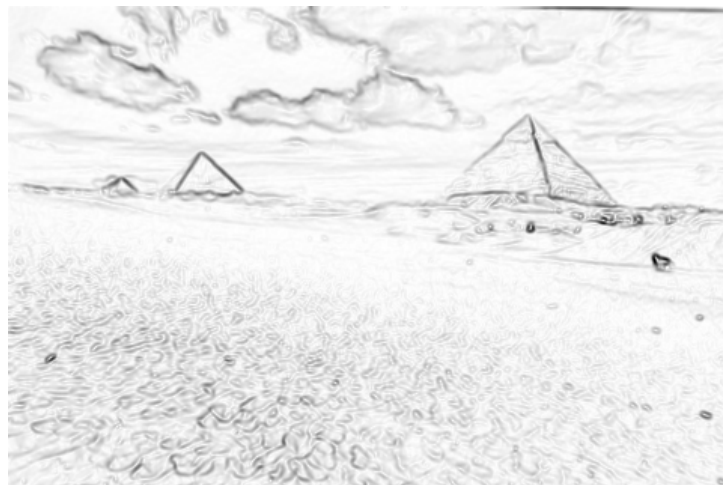
Chromatic (L/M + S)



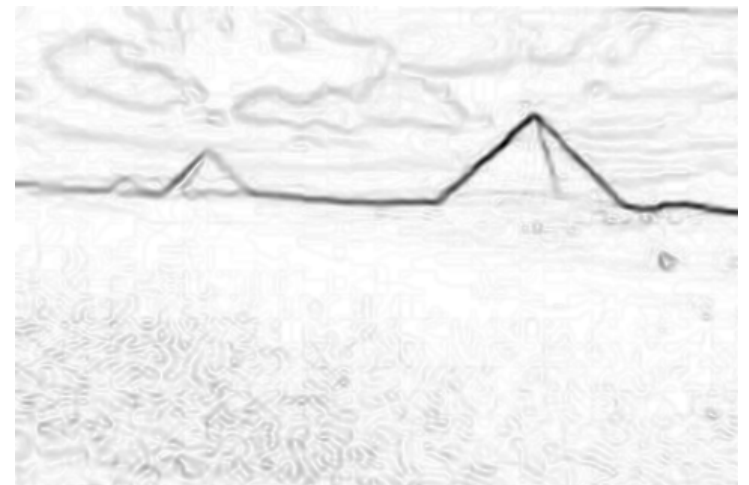
Human marked edges



Achromatic edges

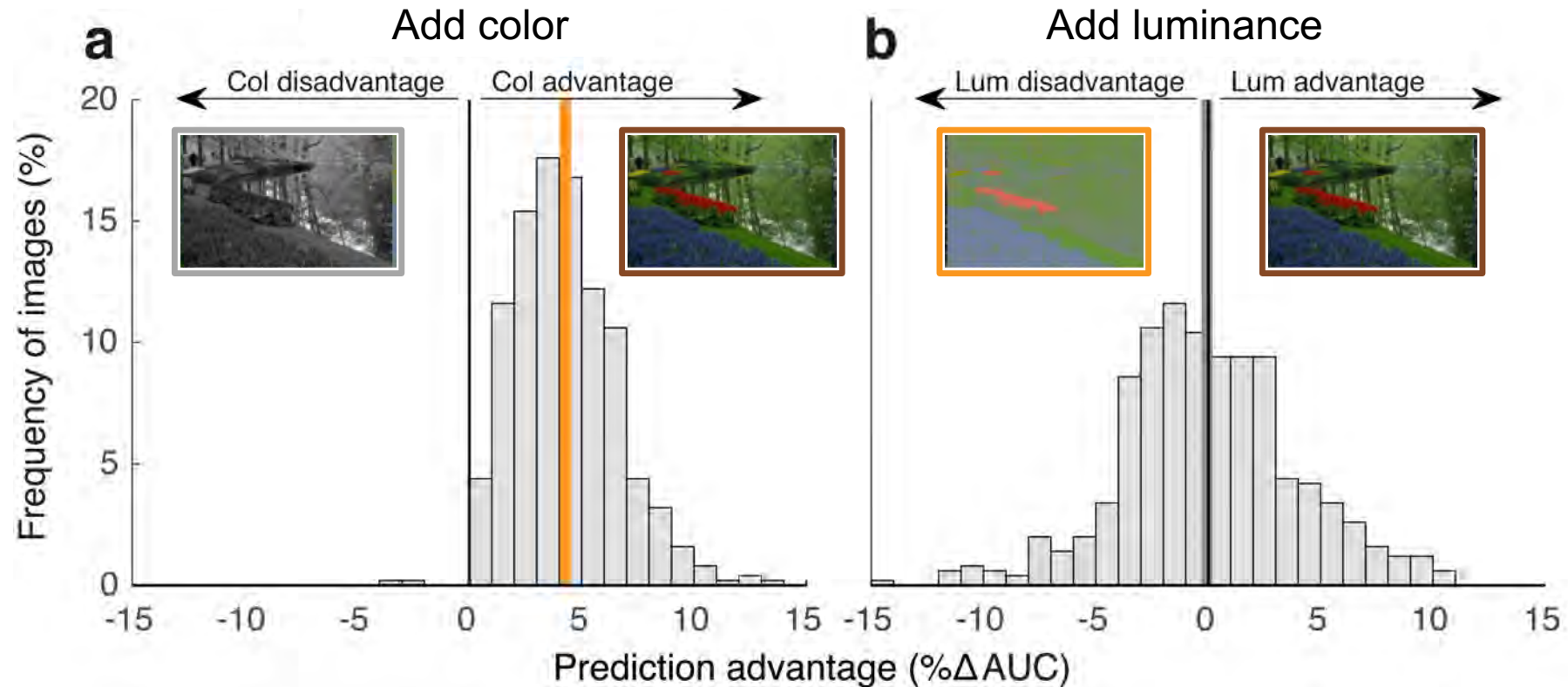


Chromatic edges



# Color and luminance edges

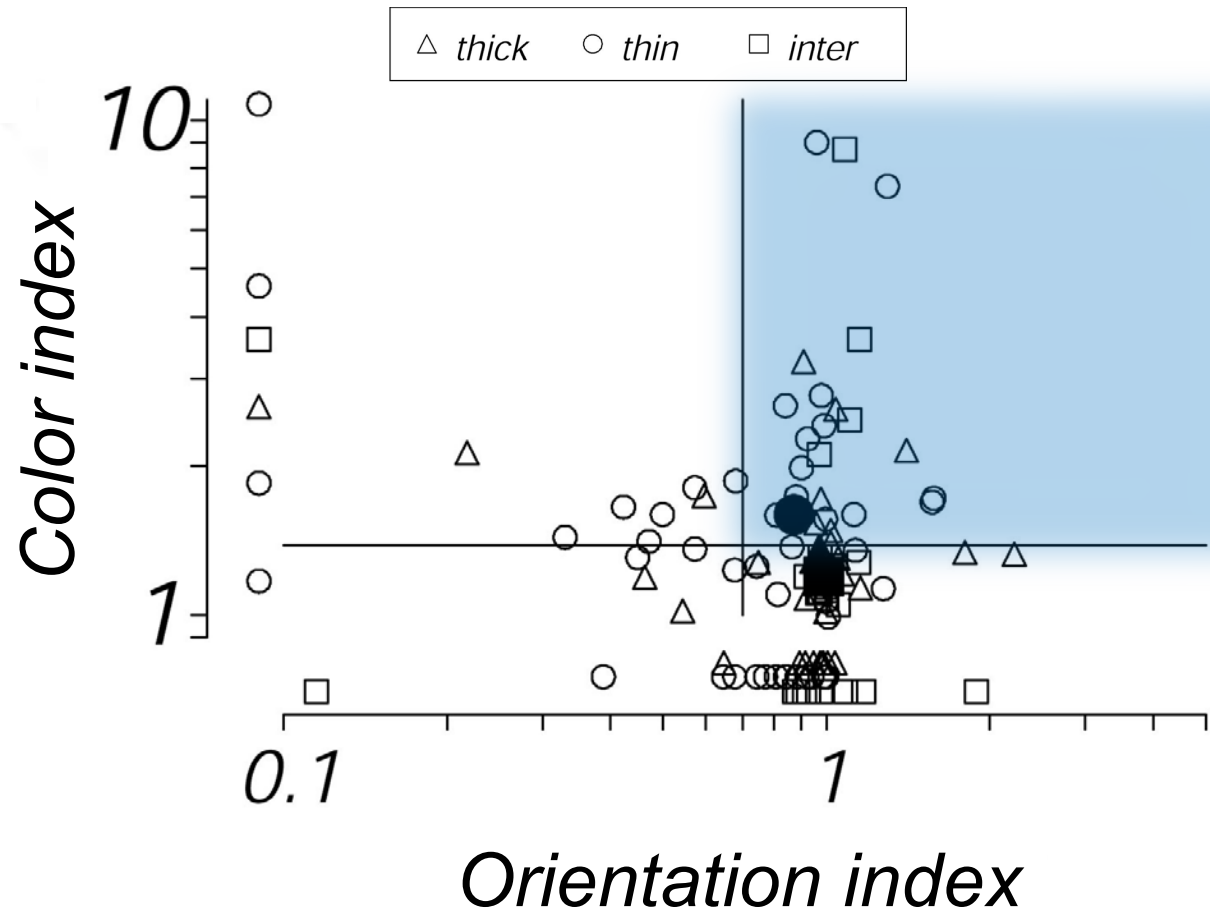
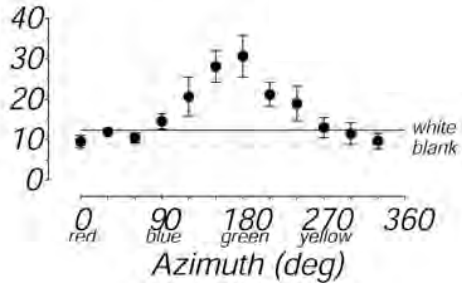
Color information better predicts human labeled edges



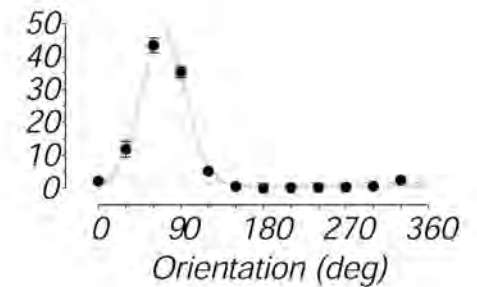


# Selectivity for color and orientation

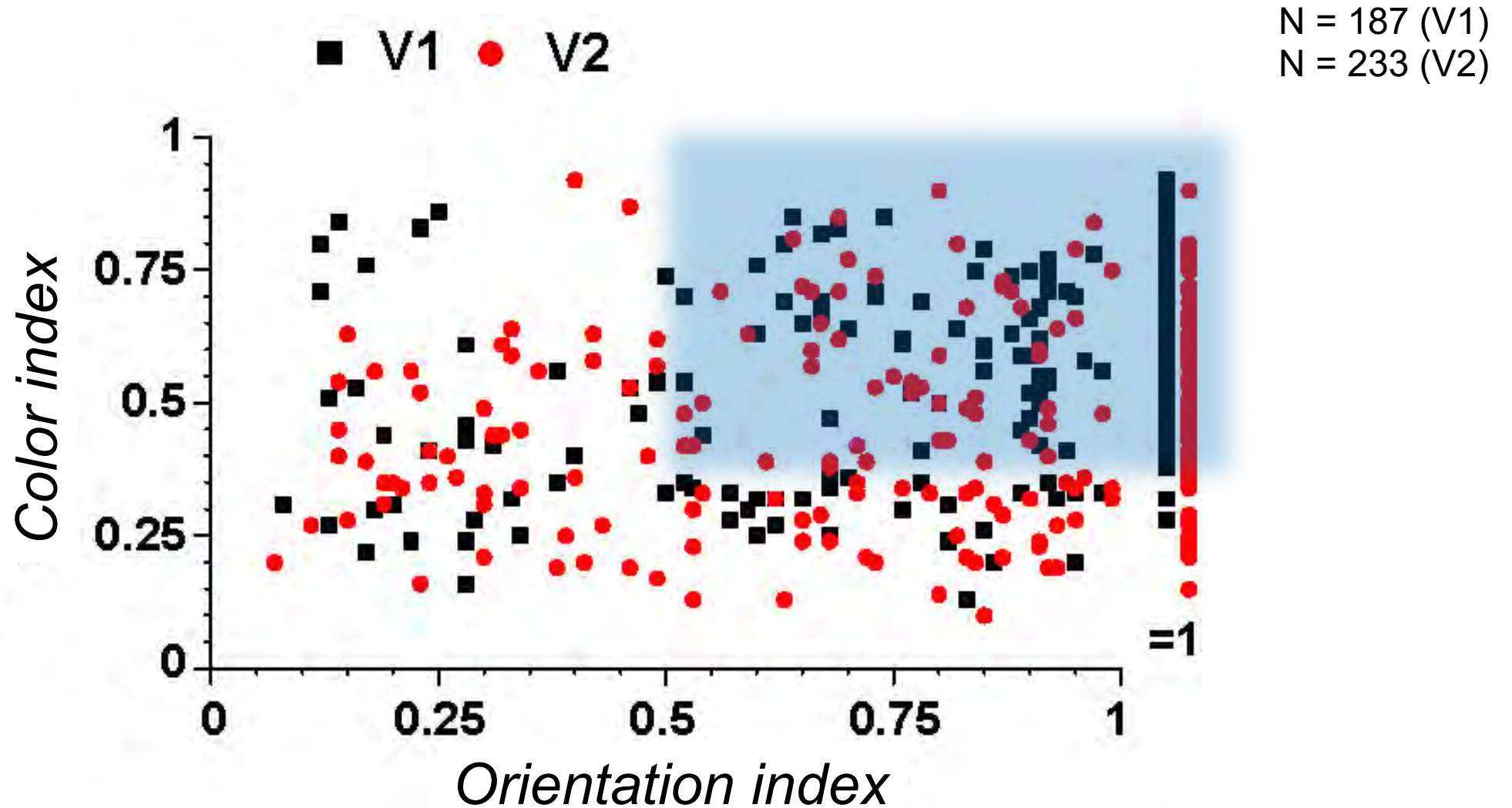
N = 57  
V2



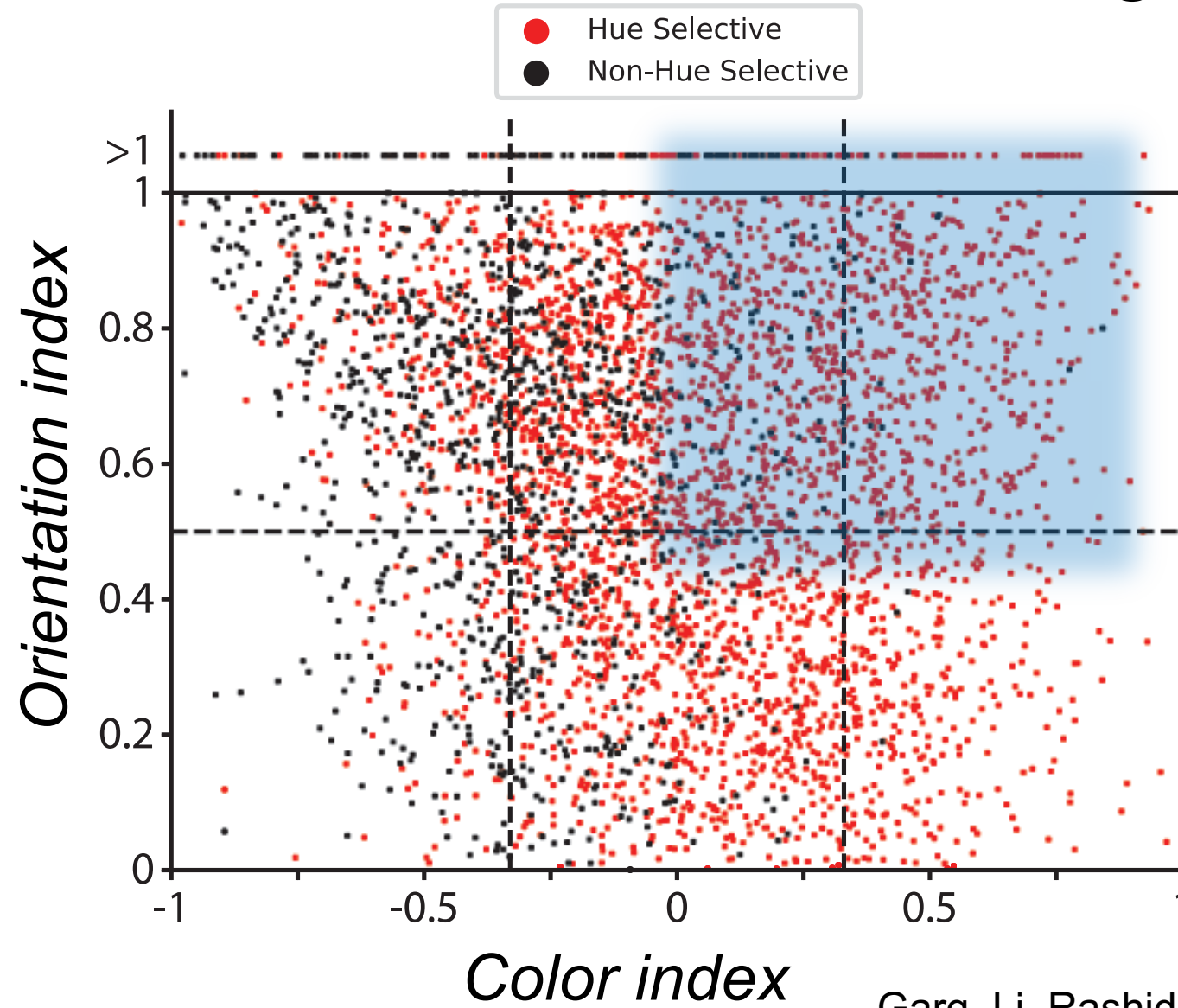
Cells selective  
for color and  
orientation



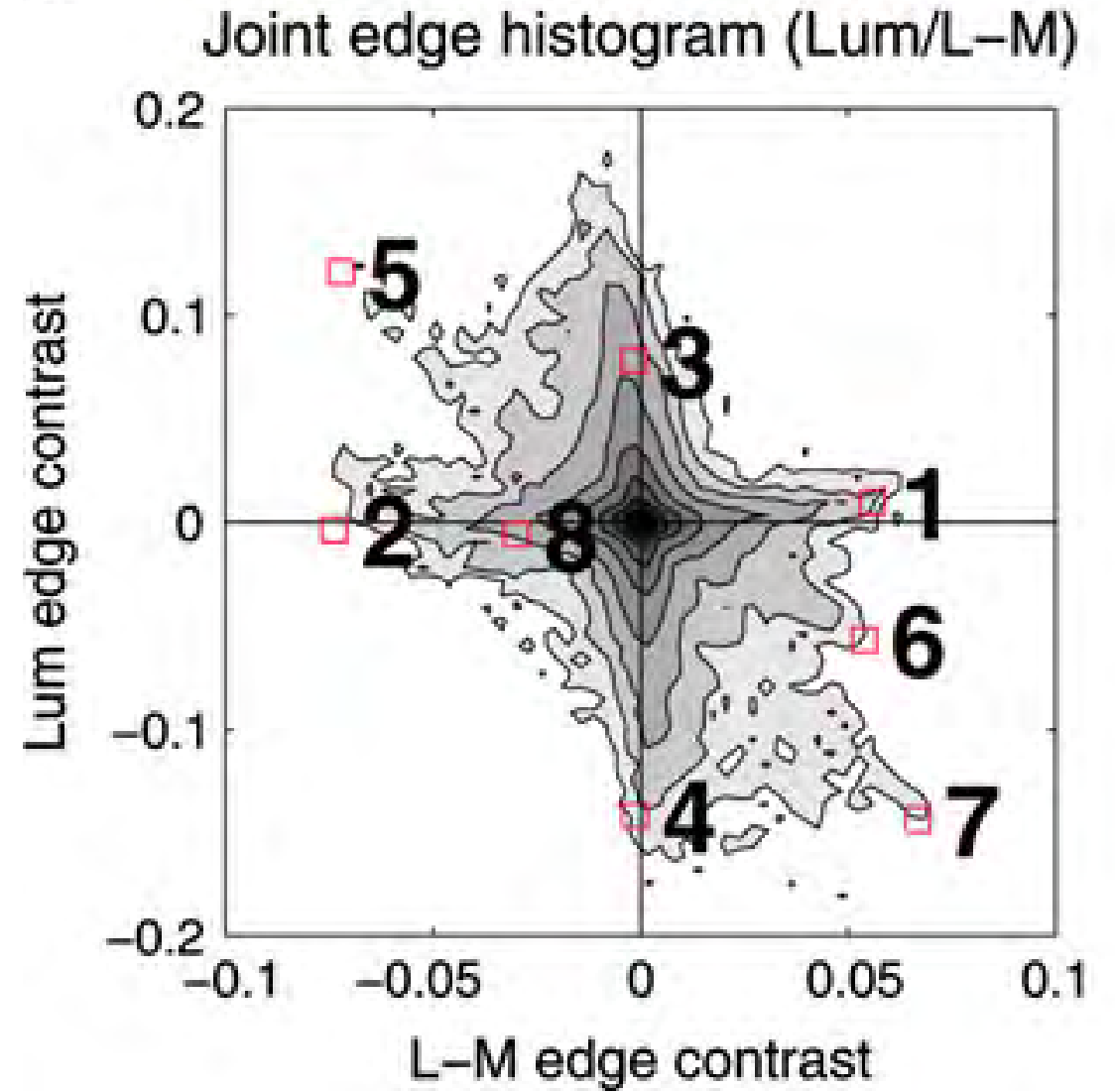
# Color and orientation tuning



# Color and orientation tuning



N = 4351  
V1



WHY COLOR?

WHAT IS COLOR GOOD FOR?

IT'S ALL ABOUT HUE

COLOR & OBJECTS: CHROMATIC EDGES

**COLOR & OBJECTS: COLOR CONSTANCY**

WHAT'S NEXT?

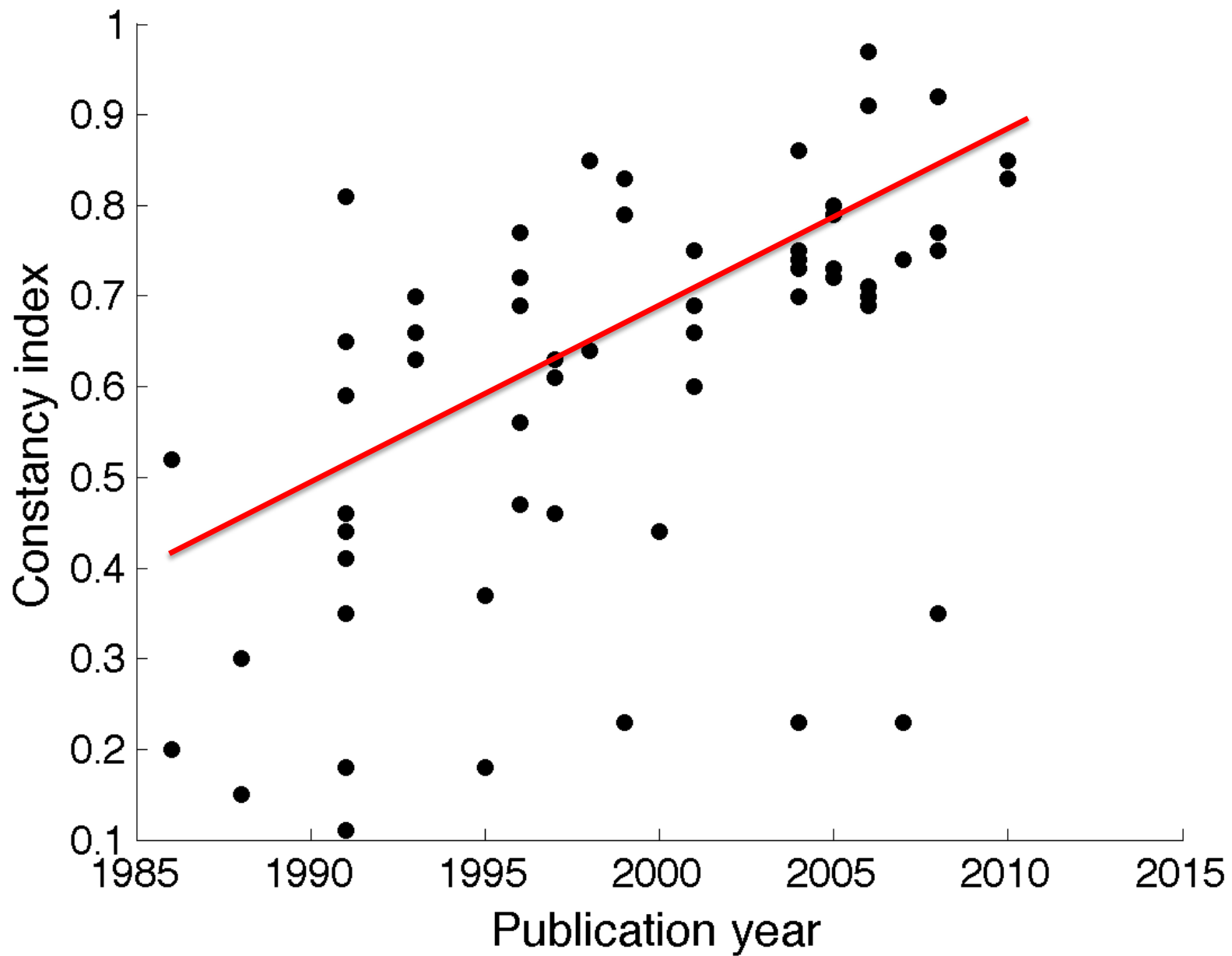


Orange

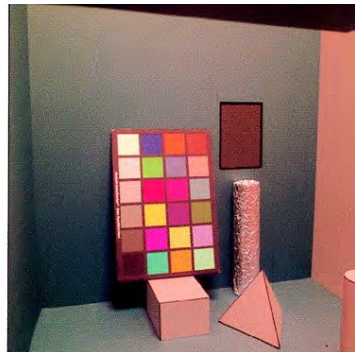


Grape

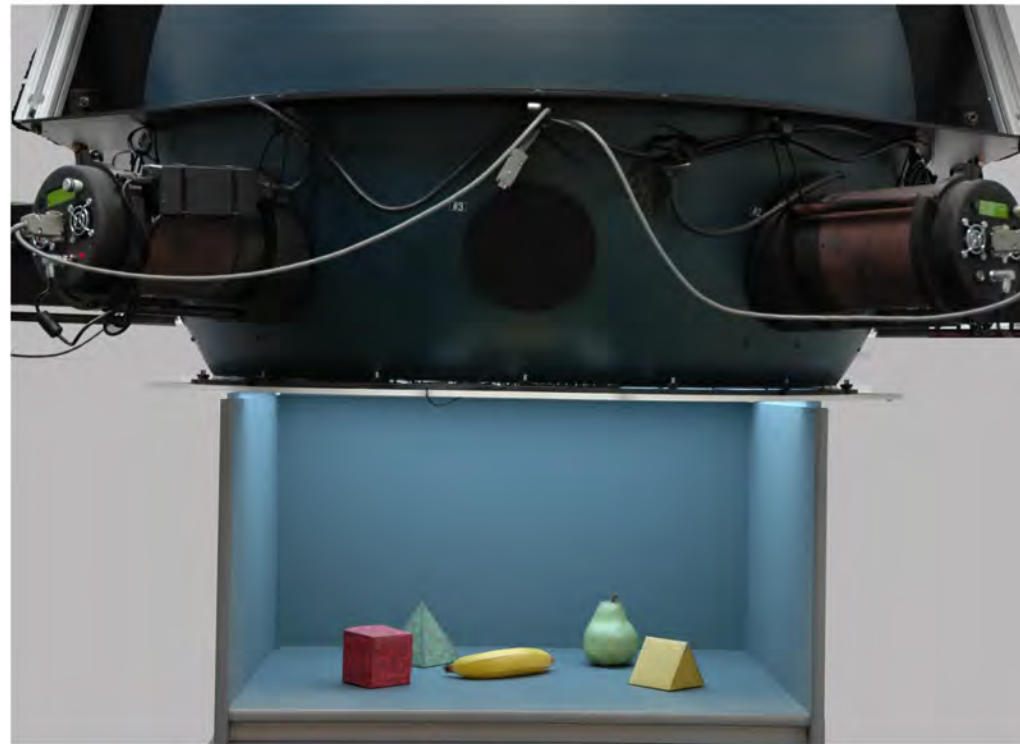




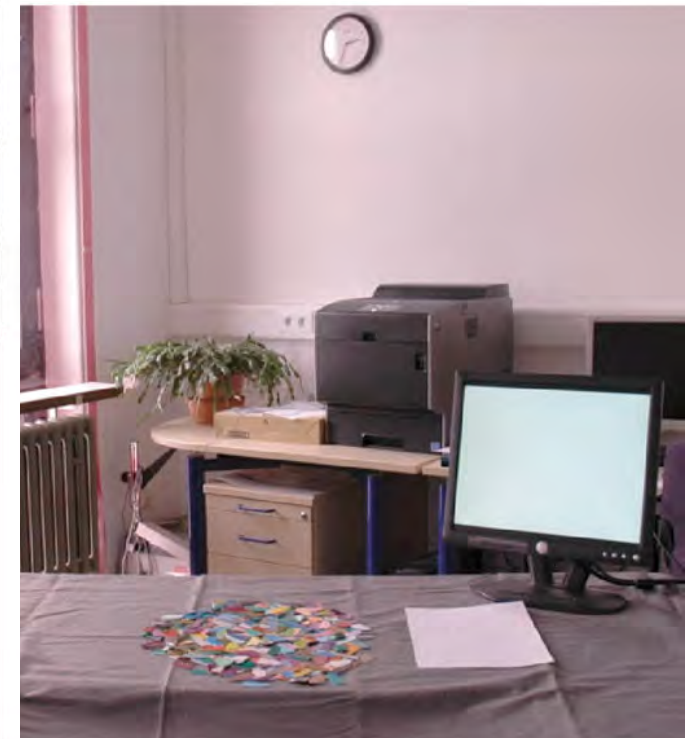
# Real-world color constancy



Kraft & Brainard,  
PNAS, 1999



Pearce, Crichton, Mackiewicz, Finlayson & Hurlbert  
PloS one, 2014.

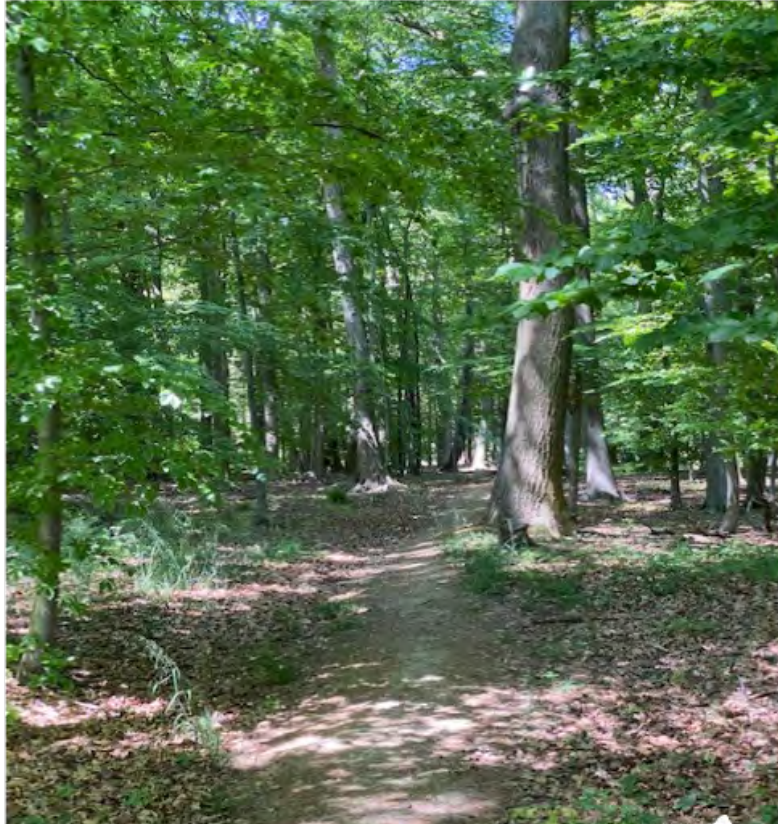


Olkkonen, Hansen & Gegenfurtner,  
J. Vision, 2009

Color constancy is high under real-world conditions, with a single uniform illuminant and a large field of view.



# Virtual Reality 2022



**REAL**

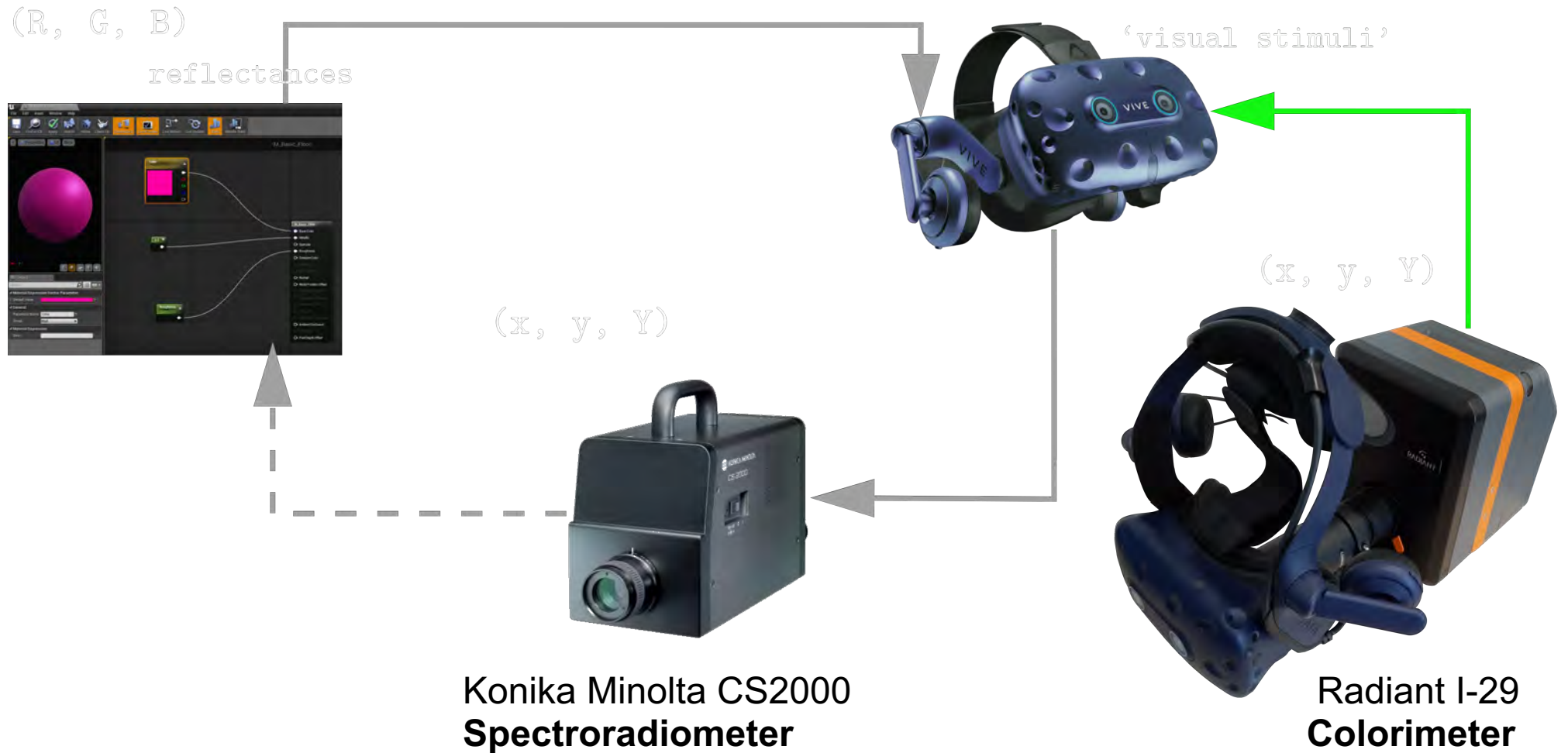


**UNREAL  
ENGINE**

# VR color calibration

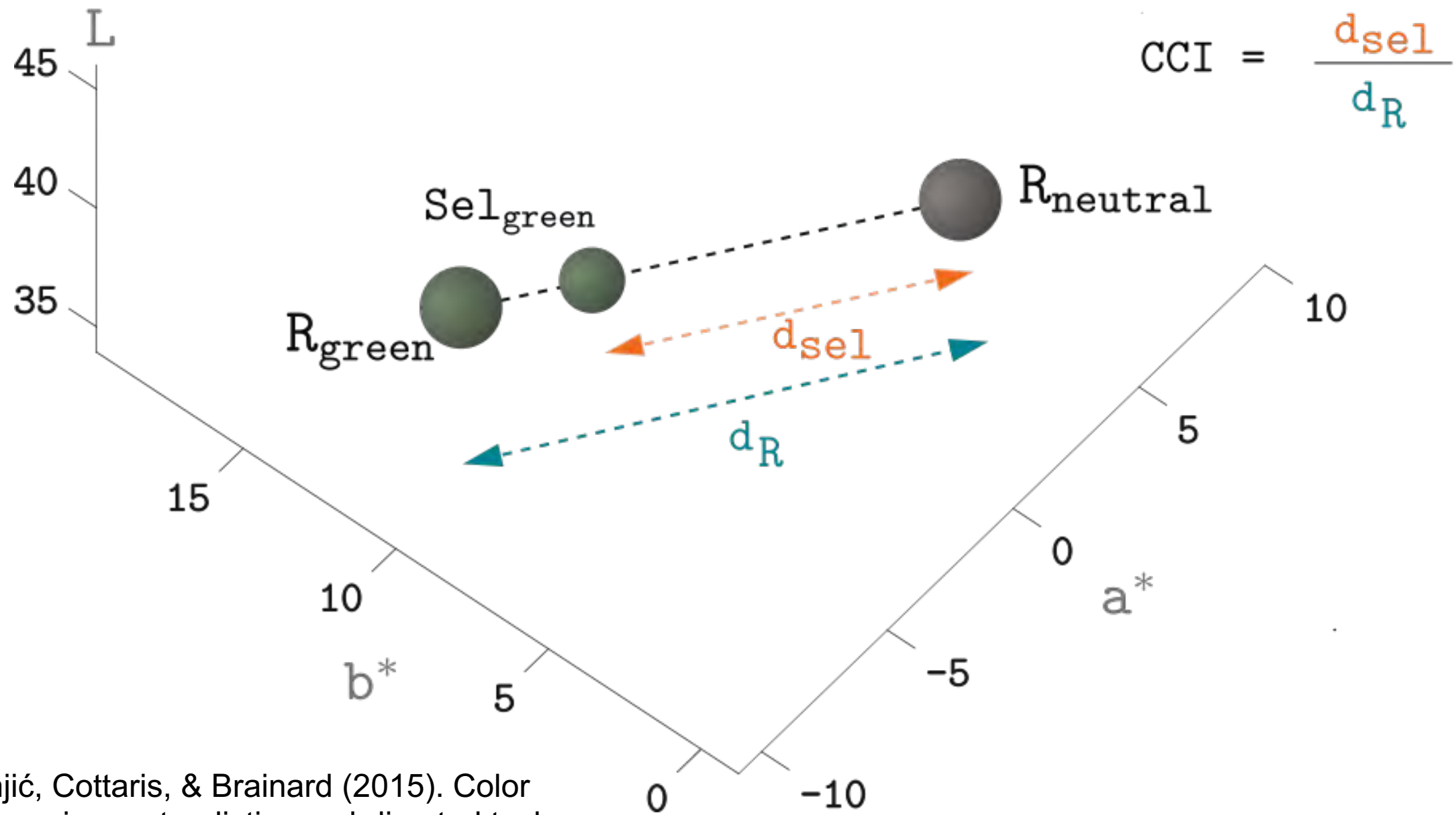
## Rendering system

- OpenGL via Psychtoolbox
- UNREAL engine



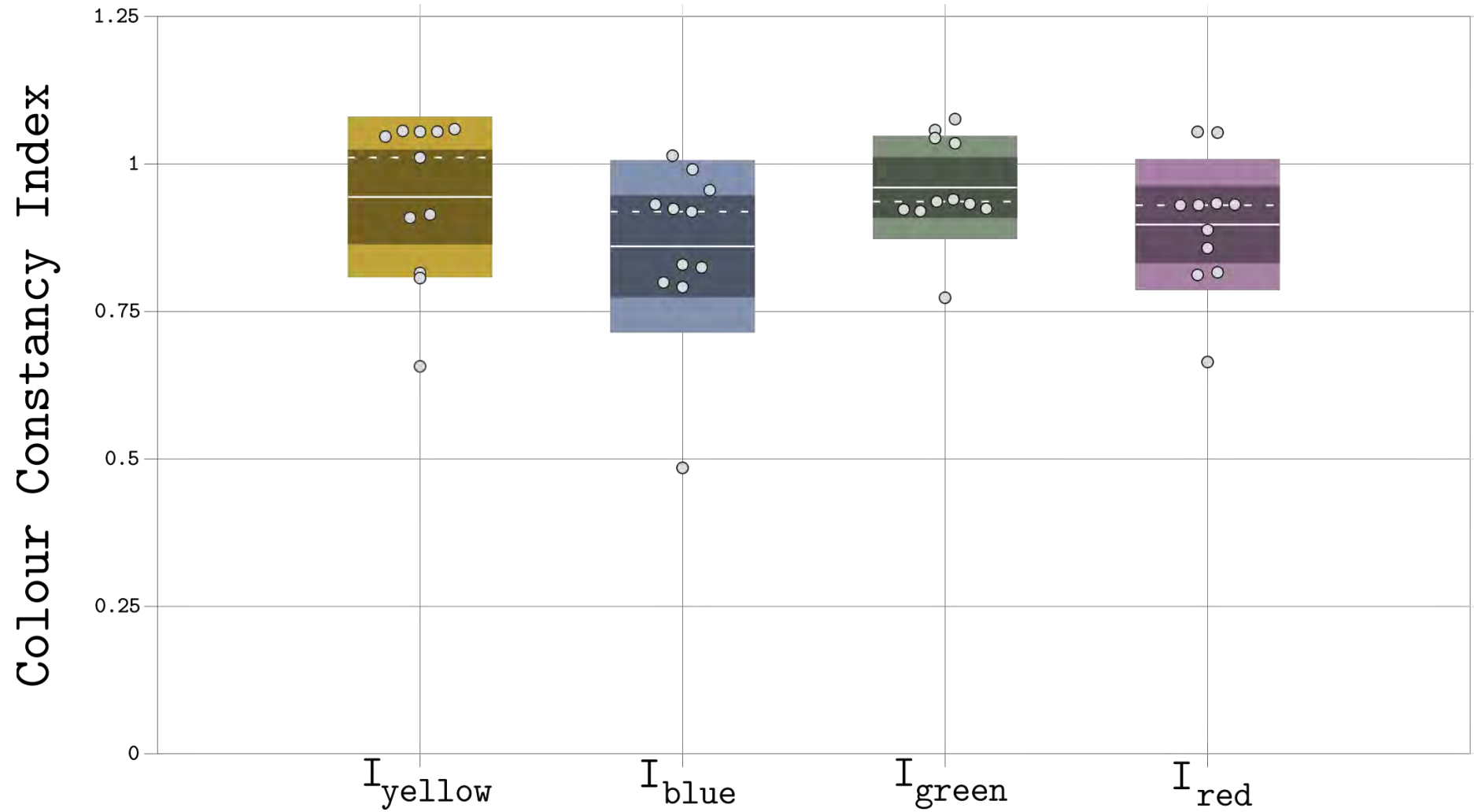


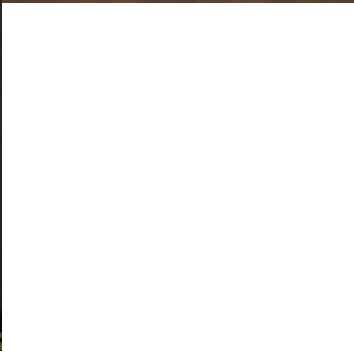




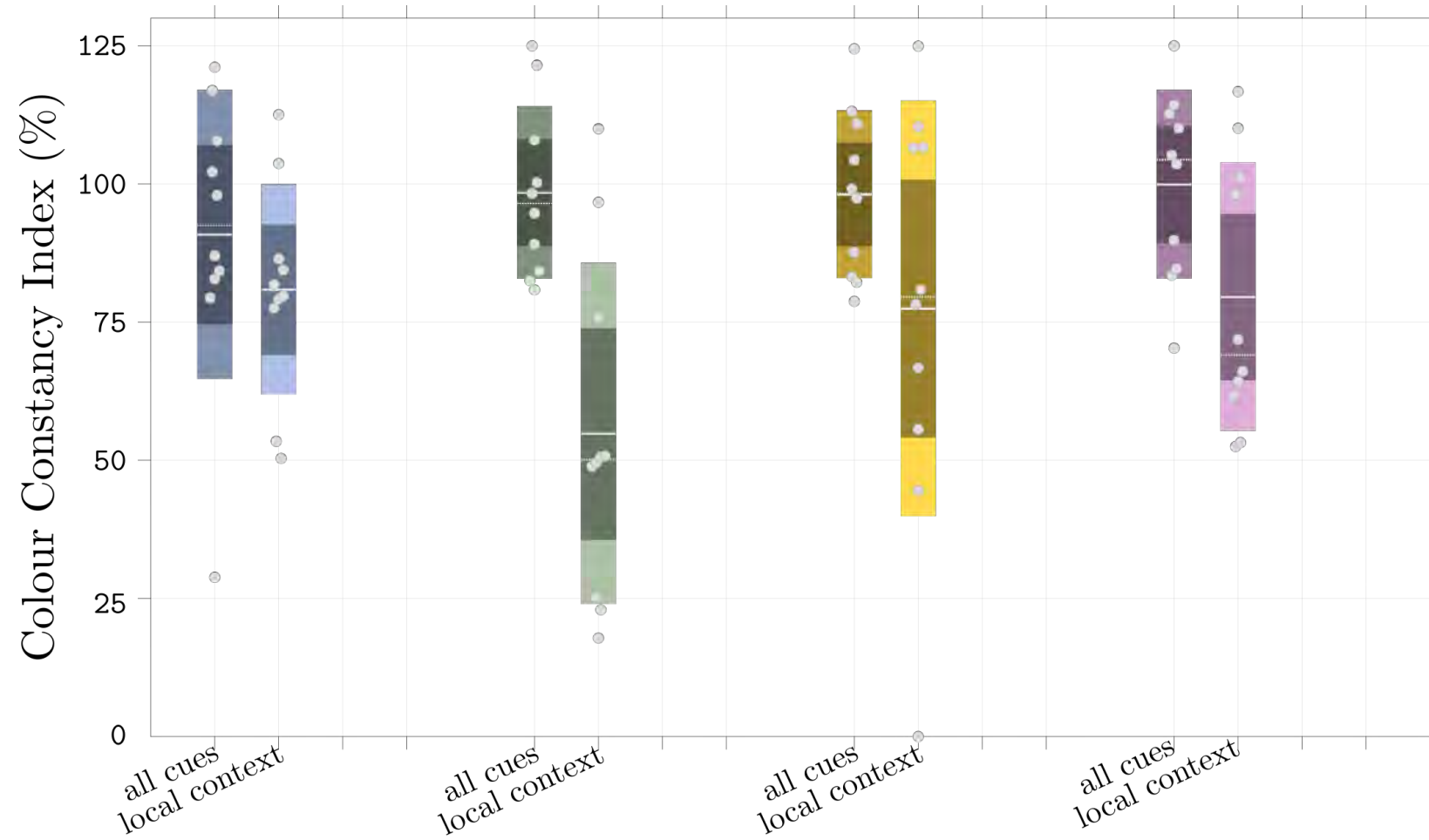
Radonjić, Cottaris, & Brainard (2015). Color constancy in a naturalistic, goal-directed task. *Journal of Vision*, 15(13), 3-3.

# VR first results

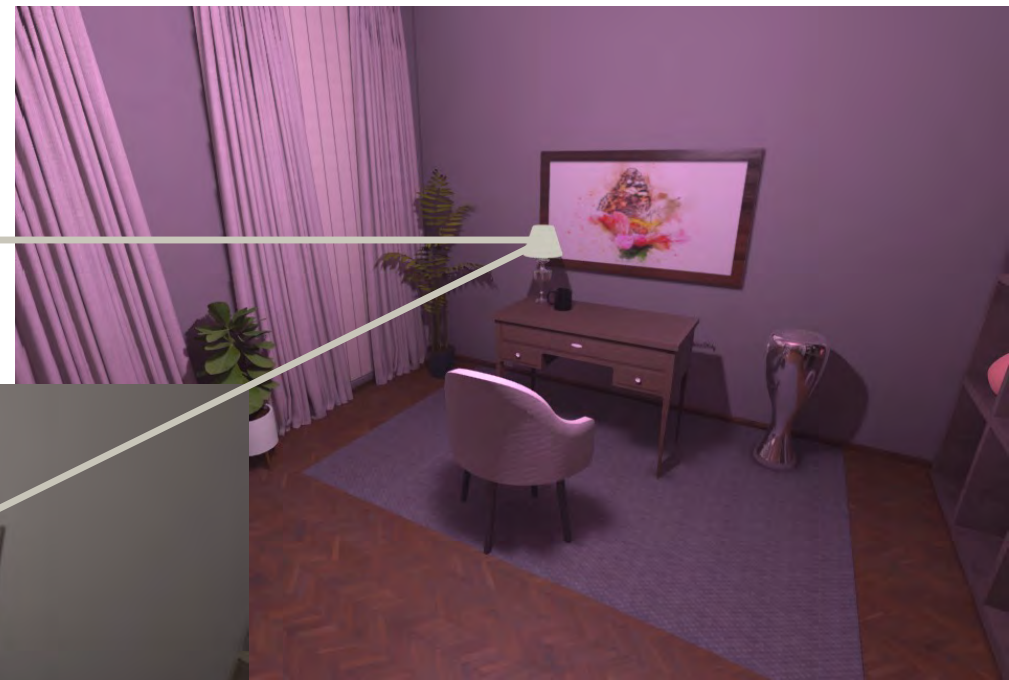




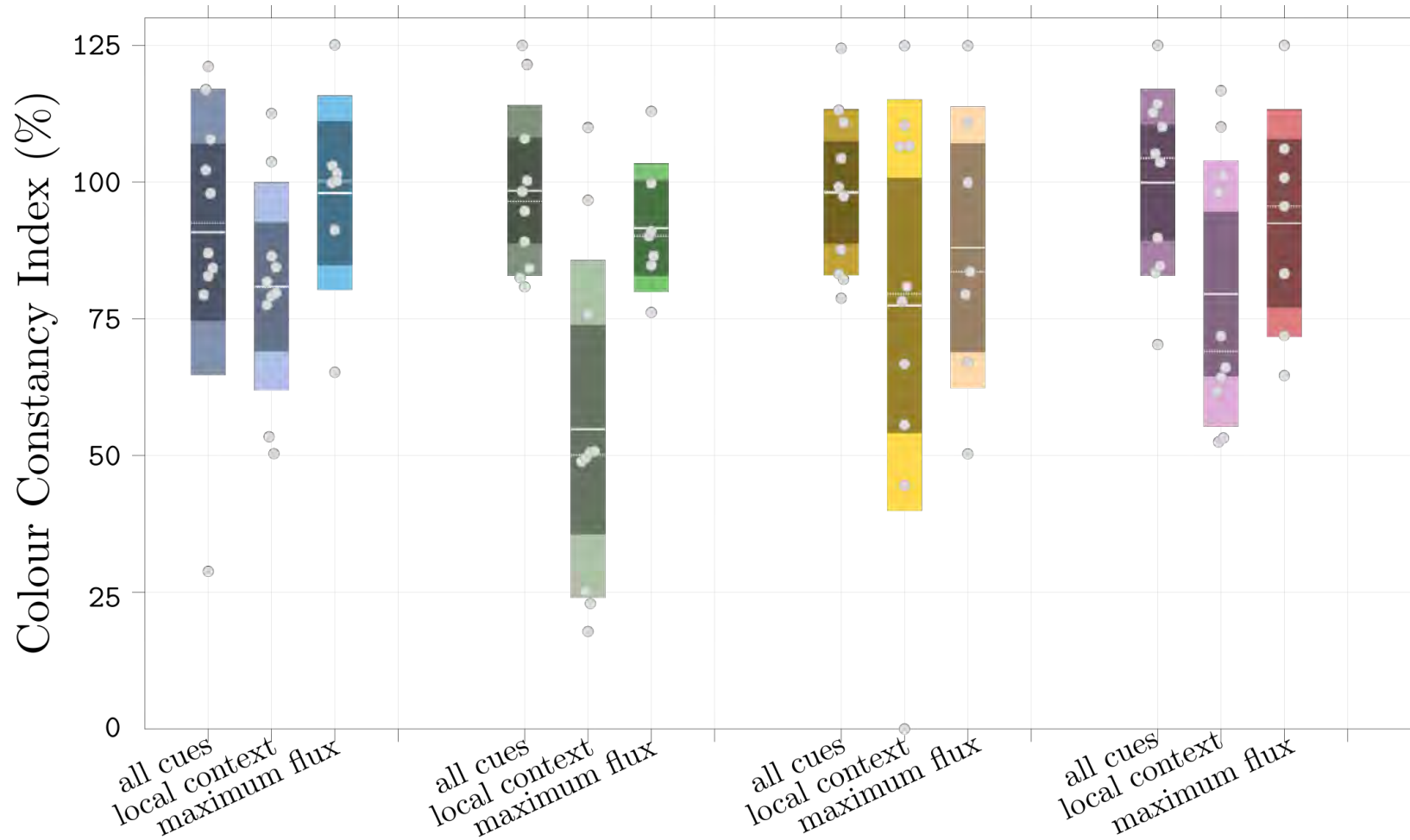
# Role of local context





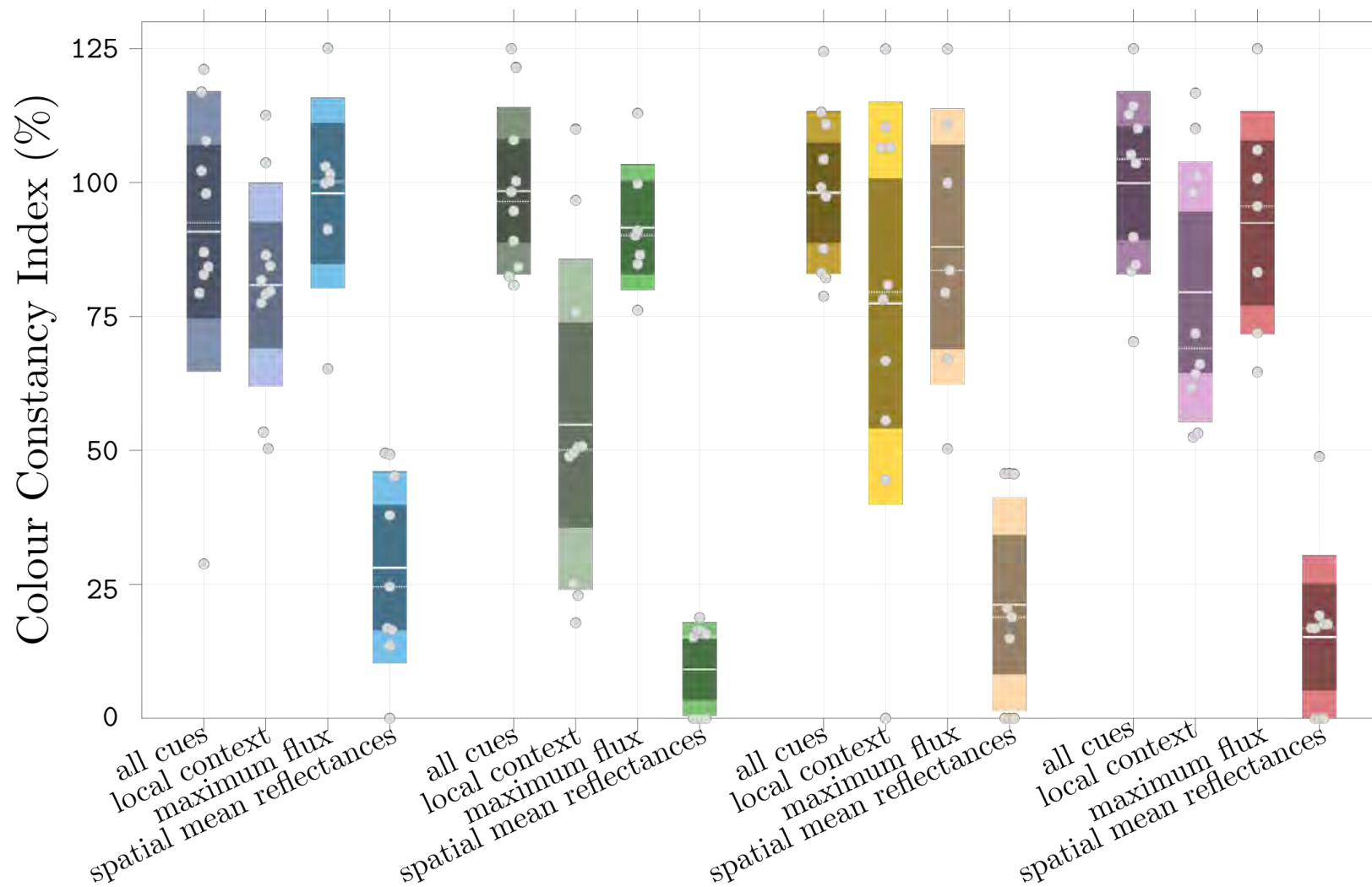


# Role of brightest object



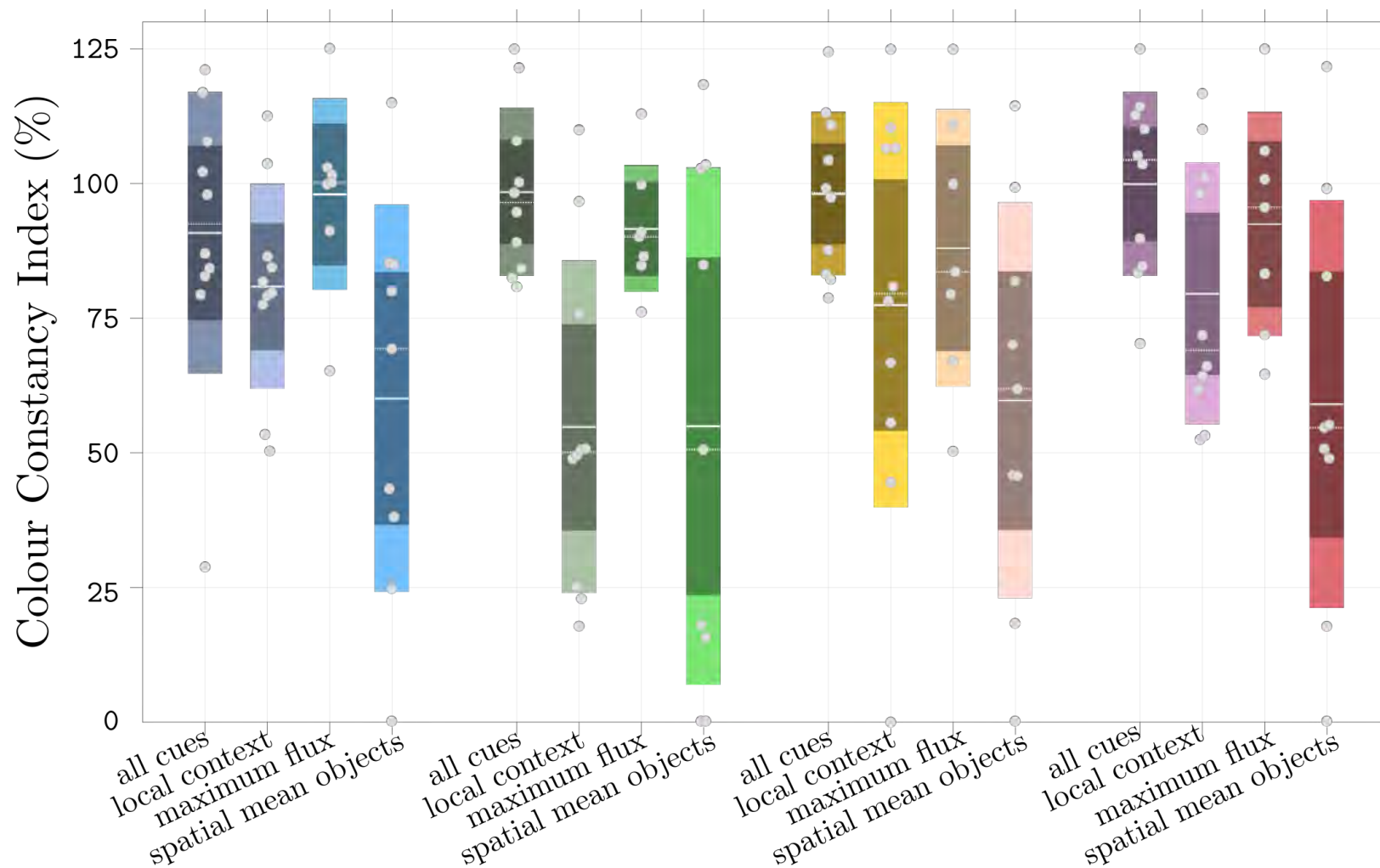


# Role of average color



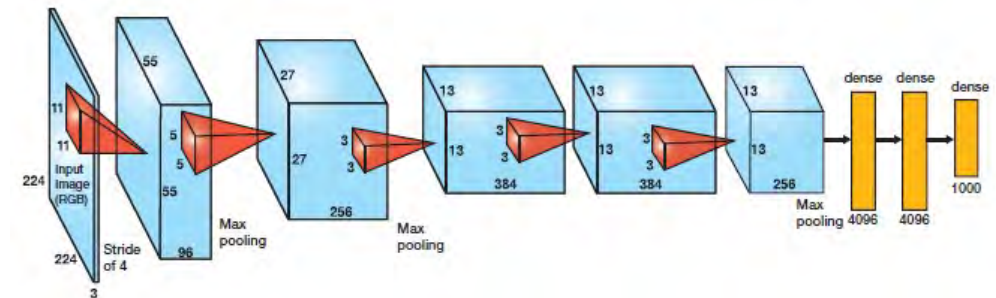
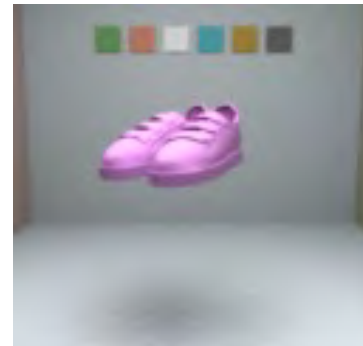
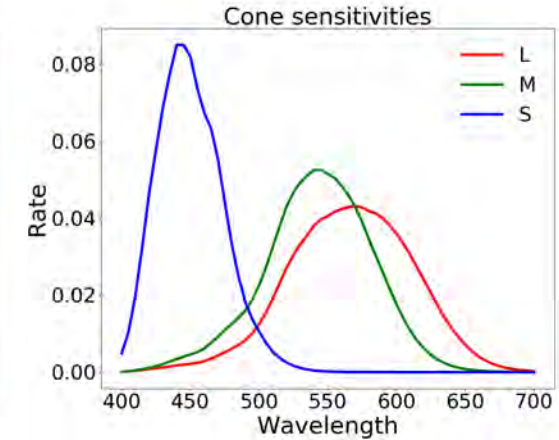
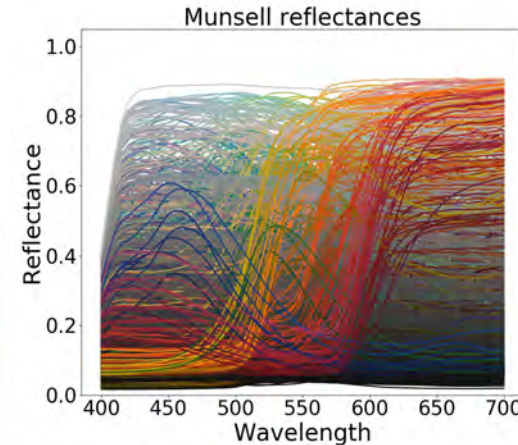
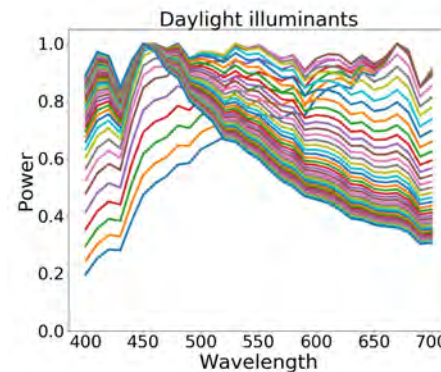
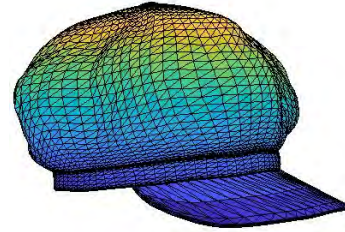


# Role of average color



# DNN for color constancy

- 2115 3D shapes
- 330 Munsell reflectances (WCS)
- 265 daylight and forest illuminants
- Stockman & Sharpe cone fundamentals
- Mitsuba spectral rendering
- 181,500 (330 x 550) cone excitation images (124 x 124 pixel)



# DeepCC Varying illuminants

# Deep65 D65 only



Chip 1

...

...

Chip 50

...

...

Chip 100

...

...

Chip 150

...

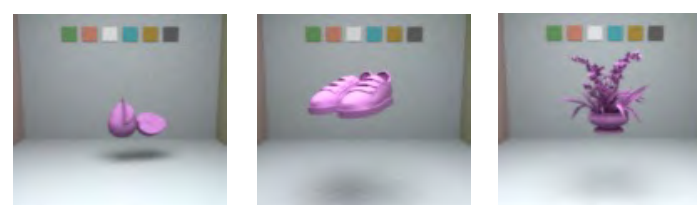
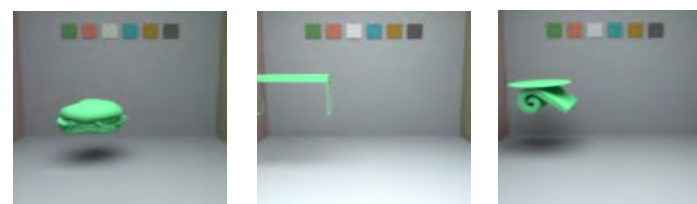
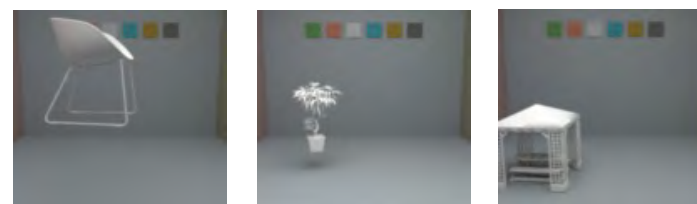
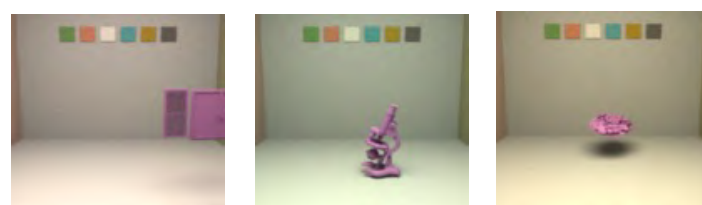
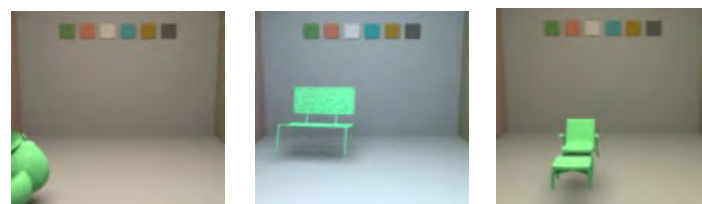
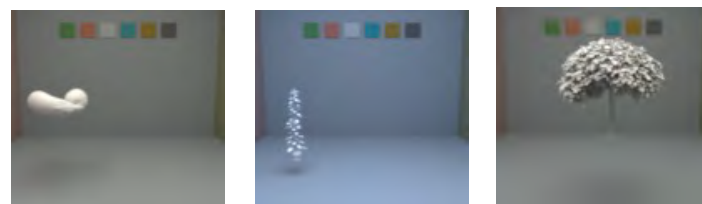
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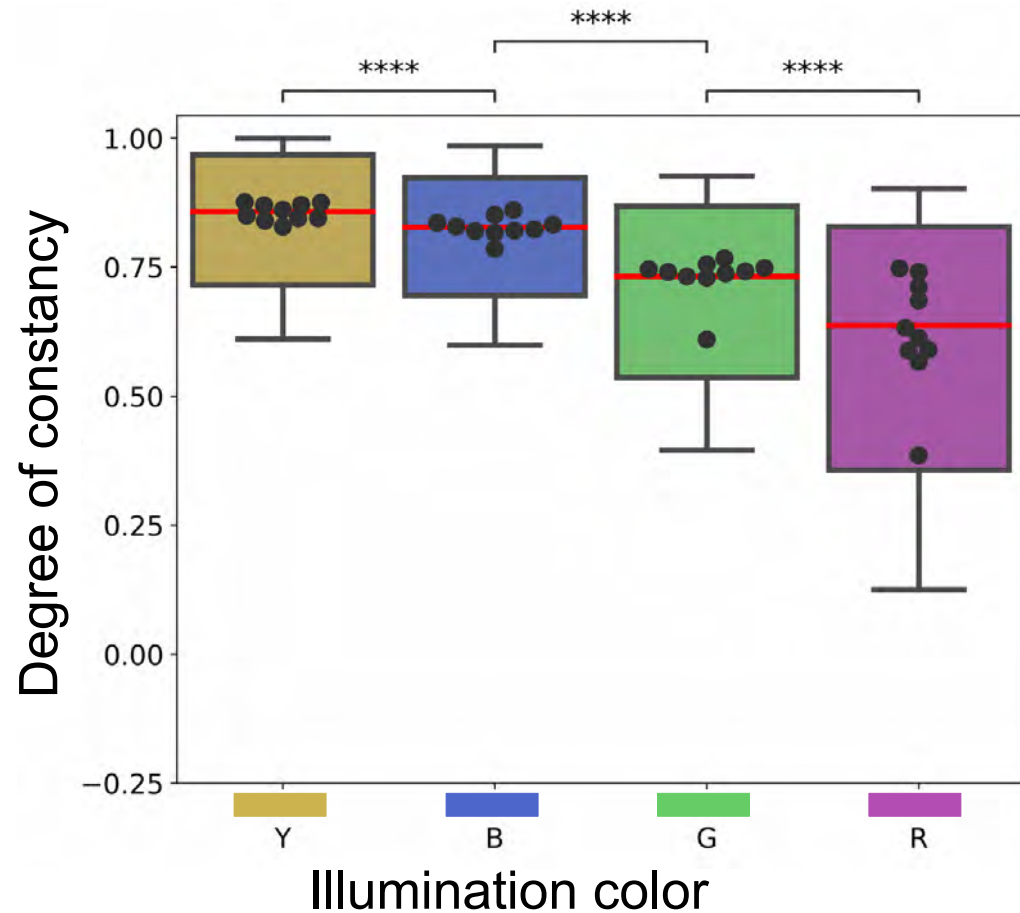
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# DNN for color constancy



A DNN (DeepCC) can achieve close-to-perfect color constancy using naturalistic input stimuli

Color constancy gradually increases throughout the network layers

DeepCC evolves a human-like representation of hue, chroma and lightness

Every single network node is available for further analysis and can be compared to neurophysiological data

# Color vision: from pixels to objects

- **Classic color vision**

- Defined by 3 color coordinates
- No direct relationship to real-world objects

- **Objects**

- Defined by distributions in color space
- Hue is the major invariant, important for segmentation and memory
- Lightness and saturation derived from distributions

- **Natural scenes**

- Feasible in VR, DNNs (and neuroimaging: MEG, fMRI, 2pi)



Raquel  
Gil Rodriguez



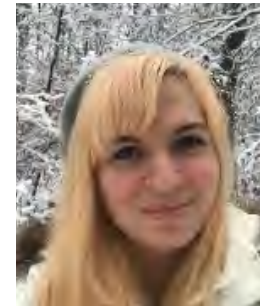
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Guan



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Morimoto



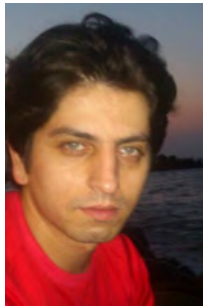
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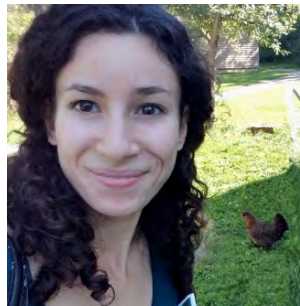
Avi  
Aizenman



Francisco  
Diaz Barrancas



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Laysa  
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Doris  
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Thorsten  
Hansen



Rob  
Ennis



Florian  
Bayer



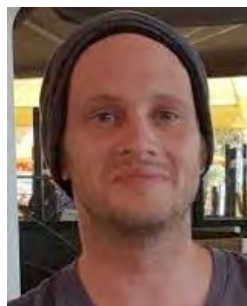
Pablo  
Barrionuevo



Christoph  
Witzel



Jing  
Chen



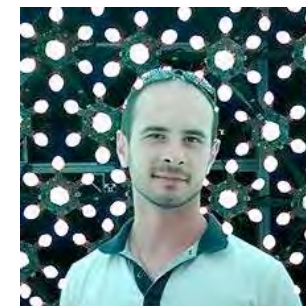
Matteo  
Toscani



Alban  
Flachot



Dar'ya  
Guarnera



Claudio  
Guarnera



Andrea van  
Doorn

Jan  
Koenderink

# Thanks!

